

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

March 2018

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St. Paul's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rochester, Michigan

March 2018

Pastor's Message



God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life.

John 3:16

This most familiar saying of Jesus proclaims God's relentless love for humanity, and God's deep longing to be in a living relationship with all of us. As we begin March, we continue our church's journey in the season of Lent. On Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary and in the Open Door, we are reflecting on Jesus' seven last words from the cross. Each word is a testament to the love spoken of in John 3:16. I hope that you will make this series a priority and invite your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors to join you in worship.

Even now our Lent Small Groups are underway as we read Matt Rawle's engaging book, **What Makes A Hero? The Death-Defying Ministry of Jesus**. It's not too late to get the book and join us for a great discussion in one of our small groups. Lent is the perfect time to take a step toward greater discipleship and to grow in your faith. See you in worship!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. David Eardley

Stop the Bleed

Sunday, March 4

10 a.m. in the Parlor

The Health Ministry Team will offer a **30-minute training**

session on how to stop

uncontrolled bleeding in emergency situations. This session is **open to all** members of the congregation. **Ushers and greeters are strongly encouraged to attend.** Get instructions and hands-on practice to increase survivability in man-made or natural mass casualty events. No one should die from uncontrolled bleeding. Come and learn these simple techniques to save a life. Please RSVP to the church office at 248-651-9361 by March 1.



Youth Worktrip Fundraiser

Lenten Movie Night

Friday, March 23; 7 p.m. Movie in Hickey Hall

Come watch *The Incredibles* superhero movie with us! Join us as we celebrate Lent with a family movie night and support our youth. Popcorn and snacks will be available. Wear your favorite pajamas or super hero costumes. Proceeds from this event will

benefit our youth worktrip to Houston, TX July 8 - 15.



Holy Week

Palm Sunday March 25

9 & 11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

11 a.m. Open Door Worship in Hickey Hall

Holy Thursday March 29

7 p.m. Open Door Worship in Hickey Hall

Good Friday March 30

12:30 p.m. Worship in Rickard Chapel

Childcare available for call ahead or walk-in

7:30 p.m. Tenebrae in the Sanctuary

Joseph Daniel's *Jesus, Man of Sorrows* with choirs & orchestra

Childcare available for call ahead or walk-in

Open Door Easter March 31

10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

11 a.m. Worship in Hickey Hall

Easter Sunday April 1

8 - 11 a.m. Easter Breakfast in Hickey Hall

Everyone is welcome!

9 & 11 a.m. Easter Worship

Childcare for infants through four-year-olds

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Rochester Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, March 11; 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary

We welcome the RSO for **They May Say I'm a Dreamer** concert featuring Lori Newman on flute. Tickets (\$25) available at the door or at rochestersymphony.com.

Lenten Concert Series

Fridays at Noon in the Sanctuary

No admission charge for the concerts.

March 9

Doris Williams
Celtic Music

March 16

Nicholas Schmelter
Organ

March 23

Sarah Simko
Organ

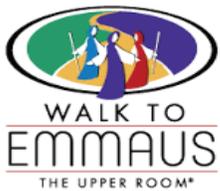
Rochester Community Tenebrae Service

Good Friday, March 30; 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Observe Good Friday by attending this moving Tenebrae service featuring Joseph Daniel's newly composed *Jesus, Man of Sorrows* by:

- St. Paul's Choirs and orchestra
- Southfield Madrigal Chorale
- Rochester College Acappella Chorus

Childcare available for call ahead or walk-in



St. Paul's will Host Emmaus Walks

Men's Walk

March 15 - 18

Women's Walk

April 12 - 15

Walk to Emmaus is an instructional and spiritual journey where participants (pilgrims) will meet Jesus in new ways, through other Christians. This

highly structured partnership between laity and clergy is purposed with renewing the Church. Walking is only within the confines of the church. This is a retreat, not a marathon. Those who have taken their walks found them to be engaging with opportunities for prayer, small group discussions, and 15 purposeful presentations by team members over three revealing days.

St. Paul's hosts the Spring Walks for Men and Women for the Southeast Michigan Emmaus Community members and pilgrims from their churches. Over one hundred volunteer members from Emmaus of Southeast Michigan will plan and host the pilgrims taking the walks at our church.

If you are ready to deepen your faith in Christ and willing to commit to a 72 hour retreat, a new lifetime journey with Christ awaits you!

Limited openings are still available.

For more information, visit emsem.org or contact Karen Fisher at 248-709-7429 or karenfisher63@icloud.com or Peter Marsh at 586-713-6392 or peter.marsh@lpl.com.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31

10:30 a.m. Church Grounds

Join us for an egg hunt with thousands of eggs filled with treats and surprises your kids will enjoy. The egg hunt will conclude in time for the Open Door Easter service.



Open Door Easter Service

**Saturday, March 31
11 a.m. Hickey Hall**

Join us with your whole family as we remember the resurrection story in our family-friendly Open Door service with contemporary music, drama, and a children's pageant.

Please invite other families to the Easter Egg hunt and the service.



Finance Committee Corner

On Finances:

2017 was a successful year for church finances and the current financial condition of St. Paul's is excellent. We concluded 2017 with a surplus of \$13,416. By year end, the church endowment had grown to more than \$500,000. The endowment will generate slightly more than \$20,000 for appropriate 2018 projects. The church's rainy day fund grew to \$300,000 and will cover 90 days of expenses in case of some issue that might impact the church's revenue. We also had donations for designated activities such as Tiny Houses and Project IMPACT of nearly \$700,000 including \$313,905 for Project IMPACT.

The Finance Committee also approved a balanced budget of \$1,395,000. The budget proposal now goes to the Ad Board for review. Some small reductions in committee request were needed to achieve a balanced budget and the committee chairs impacted have been contacted about the changes in their request.

The Finance Committee also created a new trust at the United Methodist Foundation to save money for future repairs to the church campus. The intent is to save funds to replace items like the parking lot in 20 years without a special fund raising effort. The first \$20,000 is being invested in the new capital trust this month.

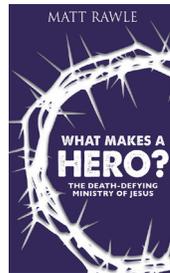
Ron DiIiddo
Finance Committee Chair

* Childcare available by reservation.

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

All Church Lenten Study

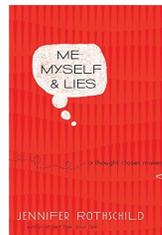
What Makes a Hero? The Death-Defying Ministry of Jesus
Tuesdays, Feb 20 - Mar 27 **Sundays, Feb 18 - Mar 25**
1 p.m. in Room 132 **Or 10 a.m. in Room 132 & 128/9**
7 p.m. Meet in Hickey Hall **Faith and Friends & Open Hearts**



Plan to join a small group during Lent! Several groups will offer a 6-week study of heroes in pop culture and compare them with Jesus. Topics include overcoming adversity, us vs. them mentality, haves and have-nots, and the meaning of the resurrection for 2018. For more information, please contact Rev. Rick Kress at 586-612-0772 or rkress@stpaulsrochester.org, or call the church office at 248-651-9361.



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.



Me, Myself & Lies A Thought Closet Makeover

Fridays, March 2 - April 13

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Come early for coffee and refreshments

In this inspiring study highly recommended by other St. Paul's classes, author Jennifer Rothschild encourages women to "clean out the junk in their minds and replace hidden negative thoughts with positive truths from God's Word." Pick up books in the church office and read "Week One" prior to the first class. Books are \$15, payable at first class. Led by Brenda Younker, Nancy Fidler and Amy Ritenburgh.
 *Childcare available by reservation.



United Methodist Men

Saturday, March 3; 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!**



Young At Heart Adults

Tuesday, March 20

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. Please RSVP to 248-651-9361 by March 16.

1 p.m.: Program - Game Day in Hickey Hall

United Methodist Women

“Serve one another in love...”

Galatians 5:13



March Circle Meetings

- **Patience Circle** - Wednesday, March 7 - Attend Lenten Breakfast.
- **Faith Circle** - Thursday, March 8 at 1 p.m. in the Parlor. Rev. Johnny & Rev. Lynda Liles.
- **New Hope Circle** - Friday, March 16 at noon - Lenten concert in the Sanctuary followed by lunch at Jill Crouchman's home.

Executive Board Meeting: Thursday, April 19 at 9 a.m. in the Parlor.

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



Mar 7 UMW Lenten Prayer Breakfast: The UMW has generously invited us to join them for prayer and reflection. Regular child-care will be available by reservation. Contact Brenda Younker at byounker205546@comcast.net with questions.

Mar 14 Meet & Greet: Special guest, Susan Sonye, discusses ways to become more adept at filling our minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. In short, to let God's light shine through all things and shape the way we act and react to our world.

Wednesday Lunch Bunch 11:30 a.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.

Mar 21 & 28 March Madness: Whether you like to avoid it, play it, watch it; basketball is the sport of the moment. What happens when you combine your love of basketball and our goal of changing our world view to a Word view? A bracket of 64 Biblical passages vying for the top spot in the HUGS bracket and the promise of guiding our studies for next year! Come and find out what exciting things are on the horizon for us...

Mar 21 6:30-8 p.m. Blessings in a Backpack: Mission opportunity for HUGS families. **NOTE LOCATION: First Congregational Church, 1315 N. Pine, Rochester** - Sign-up at HUGS. We will pack bags of food for the Rochester School students who participate in the free/reduced lunch program. We will pack extra food to tide them over during spring break.

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.



Lenten Breakfast Wednesday, March 7 10 - 11:30 a.m. Hickey Hall

Join St. Paul's

United Methodist Women for the 54th Annual Lenten Breakfast. There will be food for mind, body and spirit, as we enjoy a continental breakfast, a program by Toni Grimmert on Learning for a Lifetime/Developing Leaders and time of quiet prayer and reflection. Come and find peace in the midst of a chaotic world.

Please RSVP to 248-651-9361.

*Childcare is available by reservation.



Coffee Cake Sale That Takes the Cake Sunday, March 25 9 a.m.; Narthex

Homemade coffee cakes will be

available for purchase ready to take home and enjoy. Proceeds support UMW Missions locally and around the world. To donate a coffee cake, sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex Sunday, March 11 and 18 and deliver to the Narthex on Saturday, March 24 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.



Save your Stuff!

Spring Rummage Sale

Spring Sale - May 11 & 12

Drop off - May 8 & 9

Thank you for your generous support!

Missions & Support

NEW Ministry!

Volunteer Visitation Team "Go ahead...make my day!"

No, not for Clint Eastwood, but for the homebound of this family of faith. You are invited to become part of a visitation team as we keep our connection to and share God's love with those who are unable to join us for worship, study groups or other church activities.

Team members will have the option of a once a month visit, making telephone calls and or sending greeting cards with special notes. It is my hope that the team will involve children and youth who will, with their parents, create special relationships with our homebound members.

Please pray about joining the team and then let Rev. Judy May know of your interest at JMay@stpaulsrochester.org. A team meeting will follow soon with plans for moving forward to make the day of some very important people.



David Rider's Eagle Scout Project

I am an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 123 at St. Paul's UMC. For my project, I am doing a sock collection for Baldwin Center in Pontiac. My goal is to collect **6,000 pairs of new socks** to help those in need stay warm in the transition from winter to spring. I am collecting all size socks for men, women, and children. This is a great way to help people whose socks probably got all wet and gross during the winter and would help make their feet feel comfortable. **Donations will be collected February 18 - April 1** in the boxes located in the Narthex and Hickey Hall or in the church office.



David Rider



St. Paul's Community Garden Planning Meeting

Thursday, March 8; 7 p.m. in Room 131

You are invited to get involved with our community garden project. Please come and learn about the garden and how to grow seeds indoors. **No previous gardening experience required!** Our mission is to grow healthy vegetables and donate 100% to the Rochester Area Neighborhood House. For more information or to get added to our contact list, please contact Rob Patten at robpattenjr@comcast.net.

Warm Coats for Baldwin

Last year we collected 214 coats. Can we top that this year?

Please purchase coats for next year's Baldwin Center store where clients "shop" for their family members before Christmas.

All sizes 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 or Hickey Hall until March 11.**



Sunday Adult Studies Sundays at 10 a.m.

Faith & Friends Spiritual Growth Study; Room 132 We continue the all-church study **What Makes a Hero?** by Matt Rawle. Join us!

Open Hearts All Ages, Stages and Spiritual Levels; Room 131 We continue the all-church study **What Makes a Hero?** by Matt Rawle. All are welcome!

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.

March 4 Dead Sea Scrolls
March 11 Come and See
March 18 State of the Church
March 25 Palm Sunday Surprise

Palm Sunday Celebration for Children

Sunday, March 25

9 & 11 a.m. Sunday School

Classrooms

Children will visit the ever popular donkey. Palms will be distributed at both services in the Sanctuary for the children to participate in the Palm Parade.



St. Paul's Preschool Registration for Fall 2018

Young 3's class: T, Th
3's class: M, W, F
4's class: M - F
9 a.m. to noon

Register NOW - Space is limited!

St. Paul's Preschool provides high-quality learning with emphasis on the individuality of each child. Our certified teaching staff will engage your child in hands-on experiences and exploration activities that nurture their basic developmental needs: physical, language, cognitive, social, and emotional.

Schedule a tour! Email: preschool@stpaulsrochester.org.

Learn more at our website: stpaulsrochester.org/preschool.

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.

March 4 Iron Chef or Calamity
March 11 March Madness
March 18 Tune In or Out
March 25 Happy and Handy

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!

March 4 Worktrip Meeting
March 11 March Madness
March 18 Pump Up the Jams
March 25 Service with a Smile

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!



High School Youth

Lock In/Rockathon Fundraiser

Saturday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. through
Sunday, March 11 at 12:30 p.m.

Challenge: Stay up all night with your friends enjoying games, service projects, food and fun while raising money for our Youth Worktrip to Houston, TX in July. Alexa Fenchak will be leading this great event.

All high schoolers are welcome!



Scholarships Available Deadline is April 15

Applications available at stpaulsrochester.org.

The St. Paul's Scholarship

Scholarships are available 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.



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.



New Church Pictorial Directory

by Life Touch Photography

It's time to update our photo directory.

It won't be complete without you!

Formal or casual photos will be taken on:

- Tuesday, April 17 - Saturday, April 21
- Tuesday, April 24 - Saturday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 15 - Saturday, May 19
- Family photos with pets will be taken on April 28

Sign-ups for photos will begin March 11 in the Narthex and Hickey Hall.

We need your help! Volunteers are needed to:

- Contact Families
- Set Up Appointments
- Greet Families

Please contact the office at 248-651-9361 if you can help in any way.



If you wish to order a lily for Easter Sunday, April 1, fill out this form and send it with your check for \$12 each to:

St. Paul's UMC, P.O. Box 80307 Rochester, MI 48308

Attention: Lilies

The deadline to order is March 19.

Sleeved flowers may be: (please CHECK ONE)

- _____ picked up after the 11a.m. Easter Morning Service on April 1;
- _____ or may be given to a person who is homebound

_____ Phone: _____

Given by (PRINT)

In Loving Memory of

or In Honor of

_____ will pick up my plant.

Name on tag

Holy Communion

March 4 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, March 11

We will be collecting a "noisy" offering supporting **Mobile Libraries for Uganda**. Please bring your coins!



Blood Pressure Clinic

Sunday, March 11

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

Have your blood pressure checked and pick up valuable information about Ears, Eyes and Allergies.



Upcoming Baptism Dates

Sunday, March 18 and May 13

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.

Third Sunday in Lent - Holy Communion

4 John 19:26-27 Behold your son, behold your mother Rev. Eardley

Fourth Sunday in Lent

11 Matthew 27:46 Why have you forsaken me? Rev. Eardley

Fifth Sunday in Lent

18 John 19:28 I thirst Rev. Reynolds

Sixth Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday

25 John 19:30 It is finished... Rev. Eardley

The Open Door Service • Modern - 11 a.m. in Hickey Hall

4 John 19:26-27 Behold your son, behold your mother Rev. Reynolds

11 Matthew 27:46 Why have you forsaken me? Rev. Reynolds

18 John 19:28 I thirst Rev. Eardley

25 John 19:30 It is finished... Rev. Reynolds

Sermon Series **March**

Looking Ahead... April

- 1st Easter Sunday
8 a.m. Breakfast
9 & 11 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 2nd Church Office Closed
- 7th UMM Breakfast
Support for Caregivers
- 12-15th Women's Emmaus Walk
- 17th YAHA's
- 19th SPARK Book Group
- 22nd Confirmation Sunday
- 24th Beer & Hymns
Emergency Preparedness for Churches Workshop
- 28th Blessing of the Animals