

# the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

January 2020



St. Paul's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rochester, Michigan

January 2020



## Happy New Year!

As we begin 2020, I am excited about the opportunities for mission and ministry that await us. This is also a time when people make resolutions to be more intentional about their spiritual lives. As always, we welcome everyone who may be connecting or reconnecting with God as a part of our church community. So, please take a moment and consider who you could invite to attend church with you. The number one reason why people don't attend a church is that no one has invited them. We have so much to offer here at St. Paul's for all ages, and I hope that you'll join me in inviting and welcoming first time guests to our church. I will be praying for God to help us all see the opportunities we have to reach out in our neighborhoods and communities.

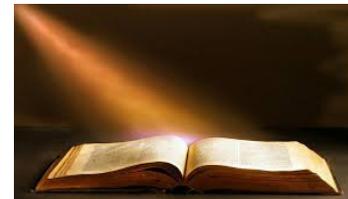
Together, we will continue leading people to become fully faithful disciples of Jesus Christ who are transforming their lives, communities, and the world for good. To God be the glory!

Yours in Christ,  
*Rev. David Eardley*

## January Bible Reading Challenge

### The Acts of the Apostles

You're invited to join Rev. David Eardley in reading the Acts of the Apostles during the month of January. Read a chapter a day, and you'll be finished by January 28. This book is the sequel to the Gospel of Luke and picks up exactly where the Gospel ends. **You can do this!**



## Help Needed!

**Friday, January 3; 9 a.m. - noon**

Volunteers are needed to put away all the Advent decorations. Please contact Sandy Heller at 248-613-2935 or [prshoes3@hotmail.com](mailto:prshoes3@hotmail.com).

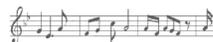


## UMW Sunday

**Sunday, January 12; 9 & 11 a.m. services**

The United Methodist Women will have their Installation of Officers for 2020 during the 11 a.m. worship service and recognize individuals for their dedication and service to St. Paul's.

## HARMONY IN THE HILLS



**R Jazz Vespers**

### Meri Slaven Quartet

**Sunday, January 19; 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Nominated for Detroit Music Award, Outstanding Jazz Vocalist and Outstanding Jazz Release. Free will offering collected.



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Thursday, January 23**

**7 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

This year we are joining with other local churches in a week of services focusing on prayer for Christian unity. Stay tuned for additional information about this service and ways to participate!





## Pizza with the Pastors

Sunday, January 26  
12:15 p.m. in Hickey Hall

If you have attended one service or you are a returning guest, we invite you to join us for a quick & informal lunch where you'll have an opportunity to meet our pastors. We want to get to know you! Reservations are not necessary. We'll bring the pizza and the pastors. **We really hope you can attend!**

## TRIVIA Night

### Trivia Night

Sunday, January 26  
5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

It's Trivia Night - Youth edition but adults are welcome to join in the fun! Get your teams of 4 - 6

ready for a Trivia Challenge! No team? No problem! We'll get you connected with one. Light dinner provided. Questions? Email Jodi Stuermer at [Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org](mailto:Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org).

### Looking Ahead:

## ArtFEST

Sunday, February 9  
10 - 11 a.m. and 12 - 2 p.m.

ArtFEST will inspire, educate, and encourage people to appreciate and participate in the visual, performing, and culinary arts. Art is great emotional, spiritual, mind, and soul food. Booths will be placed throughout the church. Talk with the artists, watch demonstrations. Some will provide make-and-takes. It will be a festive event! What a great way to spend a winter afternoon in Michigan. The Detroit Institute of Arts and Paint Creek Center for the Arts will be on site and will have booths at our event.

**Invite friends and family!**

**Would you like to have a booth?** For more information, contact Marilyn Kress at 586-212-9065 or [marilyn.kress@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.kress@gmail.com) or call the church office at 248-651-9361.



## Taking the Next Steps

### Small Groups coming in late February

Thinking about something new to try in 2020? Join one of our "Taking the Next Steps" small groups, which will begin meeting the last week of February. The focus of this 4-week study will be on **28 Days of Gratitude, Prayer, and Faith**. Watch for opportunities to sign-up as a participant or small group leader. **We'd love to have you join us in a small group!**



## Finance Committee Corner

### On Finances:

Church financial performance continues as expected. The month of November had a surplus of donations over spending. Donations are slightly ahead of budget and spending is below plan. For the year through November, we have a small deficit as the budget anticipated. We are grateful for the soundness of the church's finances.

The effort for the "Next Step" stewardship campaign in March is proceeding under the leadership of the stewardship committee. Committees are preparing spending plans for 2020 and those will be reviewed in the Finance Committee at its January 22 meeting.

Please continue to donate as you have last year or make adjustments to suit your situation this year. Your donation will be credited toward your 2020 commitment.

If you desire to make a donation from your IRA as part of your annual minimum withdrawal and have questions about the process, please contact Rev Eardley or me.

*Ron DiLiddo*

Chair Finance Committee



# Classes & Groups



## Seeker's Study

**Mondays beginning January 6  
1 - 2:30 p.m. in Room 132**

We will be reading **Grateful...The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks** by Diana Butler Bass. The author asks, "If gratitude is good, why is it so hard to do?" In her book, Bass untangles our conflicting understanding of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of giving thanks. Please contact Rev. May at [JMay@stpaulsrochester.org](mailto:JMay@stpaulsrochester.org) for more information or to order a book. **Everyone is welcome to begin 2020 as a Seeker!**



**J.O.Y. Just Older Youth (50 and above)  
Tuesday, January 21**

**12 - 2 p.m. in Hickey Hall**

Please join us! Bring your lunch; coffee and dessert provided. Learn about **Buckets of Water**, whose mission is to provide clean drinking water in Uganda through the use of charcoal water filters, presented by James Green who will also show authentic African art. **RSVP before January 17 by calling the office at 248-651-9361.**

## Sunday Adult Studies 10 a.m. Sundays

**Family Life Active Couples and 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.

**January 5** Bridges: a Faith Relationship

**January 12** Buoy - Tom Davenport

**January 19 & 26** A Firm Foundation - Peter Marsh

**Faith & Friends Spiritual Growth Study: Room 132** We begin the year studying **Fear of the Other** by William Willimon.

**January 5** What comes next? (for the UM Church)

**January 12** Saved by the Other

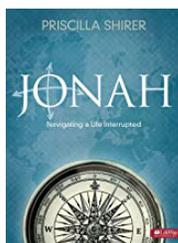
**January 19** The Other, My Enemy

**January 26** Learning to Fear Like Christians

**Open Hearts Parents with children of all ages (infants to empty-nesters) Room 131** We are on this journey together...with Jesus and with each other. So, join us as we encourage one another!



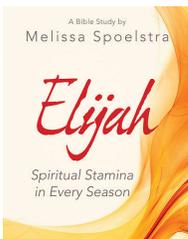
Come together with other women  
to make a friend...  
be a friend... laugh...  
dig into God's Word together  
and discover new ways to  
**Live In Faith Everyday.**



## Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted

**Mondays January 6 - February 10  
7 - 9 p.m. in Room 128/129**

After spending time in guided personal Bible study, join other women in a caring and sharing setting for a discussion of how the truths of the Bible can be applied to daily life. Come for the study, stay for the fellowship! To order a book (\$15), email Cynthia Andrews at [csa4646@gmail.com](mailto:csa4646@gmail.com).



## Spiritual Stamina in Every Season: Elijah

**Fridays, January 10 - February 21  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor**

**Coordinators: Nancy Fidler & Brenda Younker**

As the new year starts, we often consider a new physical fitness routine. We hope you'll join us as we consider how practical habits like prayer, choices, soul care, surrender and mentoring will offer us spiritual fitness as well! This new study by Melissa Spoelstra includes video and weekly reading, helping us to **Live In Faith Everyday**. Please call the office at 248-651-9361 by January 3 to register. Books are \$15, payable at the first class. \*Childcare available by reservation



## HUGS Humor, Understanding, Growth and Support

Mothers and grandmothers of all ages  
Wednesdays; 9:30 - 11 a.m. Room 132

**January 8 MUGS & HUGS 10 - 11:30 a.m.**  
at the Grand Traverse Pie Company (6920 N. Rochester Road 248-438-5110) Meet for rest and relaxation! Feel free to bring the infant/toddler set along this morning.

**January 15 Hoodwinked: 10 Myths Moms Believe & Why We All Need to Knock It Off** Acquire some practical tools to replace the misperceptions with healthy behaviors and help forge supportive relationships with other moms.

**Wednesday LUNCH BUNCH 11:30-12:30** Bring one salad ingredient and extend our fellowship through lunch. Bring your little guys in with us as we linger over conversation and lunch.

**January 22 Beat the Winter Blues** Rochester Schools have a ½ day, so let's take a moment to catch our breath, check in with each other and gear up for snowy days ahead. Feel free to bring a snack as we enjoy fellowship time with each other.

**January 29 Hoodwinked** Week two of the study. Each week runs independently, so you can come as your schedule allows!

See [stpaulsrochester.org/calendar/](http://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.

**\* 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.

## United Methodist Women

“Serve one another in love...” Galatians 5:13



### January Circle Meetings

- **Patience Circle** - No meeting. Attend UMW Sunday.
- **Faith Circle** - Thursday, January 9 at 1 p.m. in the Parlor - Surprise program.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, January 9 at 7 p.m. at Pat Holden's home - Program by Rev. Erin Fitzgerald.

**Executive Board Meeting:** Thursday, February 20; 9 a.m. in the Parlor.

## UMW Donates \$60,621

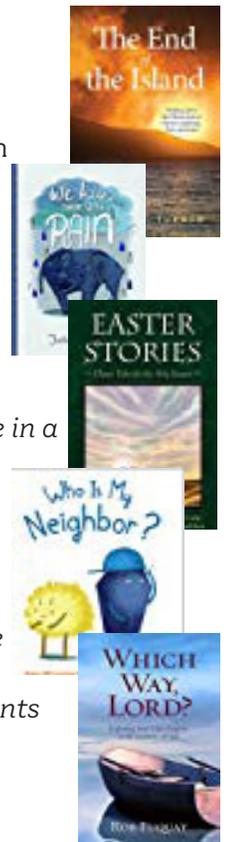
On December 17, the UMW Executive Board met for their annual Spend-Down meeting to decide where to donate the un-budgeted money raised during the year. Because of your generosity and a successful year, they had **\$37,000** to donate on top of the \$5,107 in extra giving and \$18,514 budgeted giving already donated during the year. In 2019 the UMW donated **\$60,621** to missions!

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

## UMW Reading Program

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

- *Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration, and Homeland Security* by Todd Miller
- *Glory Happening: Finding the Divine in Everyday Places* by Kaitlin B. Curtice
- *Tilly and the Crazy Eights* by Monique Gray Smith
- *Easter Stories: Classic Tales for the Holy Season* by C. S. Lewis
- *We Kiss Them with Rain* by Futhi Ntshingila
- *The Water Walker* by Nibi Emosaawdang
- *Who is My Neighbor* by Amy-Jill Levine
- *Which Way, Lord?: Exploring Your Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul* by Rob Fuquay
- *They Will Inherit the Earth: Peace and Nonviolence in a Time of Climate Change* by John Dear
- *Midnight Teacher: Lilly Ann Granderson and Her Secret School* by Janet Halfmann
- *The Aging of Aquarius: Igniting Passion and Purpose as an Elder* by Helen Wilkes, PhD
- *The Pilgrim Journey: A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World* by James Harpur
- *The End of the Island: Finding Life in the Movements of Human Suffering, Pain and Loss* by Jeffrey C. Tucker



**Check them out!**

## St. Paul's 2020 Mission Project

For the past seven years St. Paul's Missions Council has supported global and local mission projects in alternating years. The St. Paul's family has been very generous with their time, talent and treasure raising well over \$200,000 to support projects like Water for Life, Cass Tiny Homes, Imagine No Malaria, and Methodist Children's Home.



For 2020 the Council has decided to refocus on Liberia - specifically, scholarships for school age children and facilities improvements at Henri Denis School. This project is also consistent with a wider scholarship effort being proposed by the Michigan Annual Conference.



### Our fund-raising goal for 2020 is \$30,000.

- \$15,000 will support continuing scholarships for the children at Henri Dennis and other United Methodist schools. This will cover \$7500 per year in 2020 and 2021.
  - An additional \$15,000 will be dedicated to supporting the solar power network needed for the school (or similar facilities upgrades).
  - In 2021 we will select a local mission but still be able to continue our scholarship support for the targeted students.
- This project is clean, simple and consistent with our previous efforts in Liberia. We are especially focused on providing scholarships on a continuous basis, as an educated populace is the best way to cure poverty, corruption and inequality. Look for monthly project updates and opportunities to support and become involved.



### Socks for Baldwin Center

Collecting Donations January 5 - 26

All sizes of socks are needed to help the homeless keep warm. Please drop off donations in the box in the Narthex by January 26.

### Warm Coats for Baldwin

In the past 8 years, the generous congregation of St. Paul's has donated approximately 1400 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 2 - March 8.** Last year we collected 200 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.**



### Food Basket - Thank You!

The Mission Council thanks you for your generous support of the Christmas Food Basket Program. Together we packed food boxes for 87 families this holiday season. Enough surplus food for 28 families was donated to the Neighborhood House Food Pantry. On behalf of our partners, 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.**



## Ignite Class

**Sundays at 10 a.m. in Room 122/123**  
Children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join in our creative arts projects class. Learn something new and get to know the mentors from our church family.

**Parents**, this is a great opportunity for you to attend an adult Sunday school class at the 10 a.m. hour (see page 4) so you too, can become better acquainted with your church family.



## Impact Class

**Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Lounge**  
**Jan 5** No class  
**Jan 12** Chill 'n Chat  
**Jan 19** Group Topic with Mike, Better Together  
**Jan 26** Chill 'n Chat



## Better Together

**Third Sunday of the Month**  
**10:30 a.m. - noon; Lounge/Sanctuary**  
Join us for a delicious light breakfast and attend the 11 a.m. worship service together. Friends are always welcome.

## Middle School Youth Group

All 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their friends  
**Sundays, 6 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall**

Follows Confirmation & Journey. Dinner \$5.

**Jan 5** No Youth Group  
**Jan 12** Blanket Palooza service project  
**Jan 19** Love in Action MLK  
**Jan 26** Trivia Night

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



## High School Youth Group

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

Small groups, dinner (\$5) & youth group fun!

**Jan 5** No Youth Group  
**Jan 12** Blanket Palooza service project  
**Jan 19** YouLead  
**Jan 26** Trivia Night

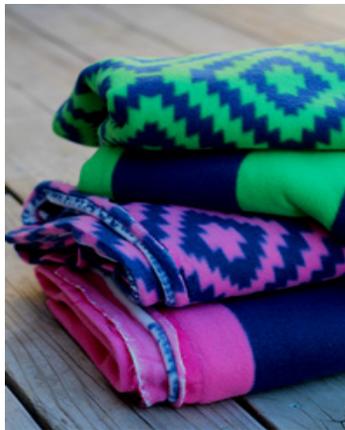
**No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!**



## Mission Puerto Rico Worktrip Fundraiser

**Jan 19** Sell Super Bowl subs 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Narthex/Hickey Hall

**Jan 26** Sell Super Bowl subs 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Narthex/Hickey Hall



## Blankets for the Homeless

**Blanket Palooza**  
**Youth Group Winter Service Project**  
**Sunday, January 12**  
**5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall**

Join us as we make fleece blankets to spread love and help people stay warm this winter. Bring scissors and fleece if possible. Blankets are easy to make and require no sewing. Each blanket requires 2 yards each of two coordinating fabrics. All ages welcome at this event!

## Super Bowl Subs

**Sales:**  
**January 19 & 26**  
**8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

**in Narthex and Outside of Hickey Hall**

Sub sales are back again! For just \$10 you get a turkey or ham sub sandwich loaded with meat, chips and cookies. 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 Ponce, Puerto Rico. **Are you ready for some football!?**

**Distribution:**  
**February 2**





## St. Paul's Preschool Registration for Fall 2020

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

Open Registration begins February 1, 2020.  
Applications available online or in church office.

St. Paul's 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.

Email us today at [preschool@stpaulsrochester.org](mailto:preschool@stpaulsrochester.org) to save a spot for your child. See our website at [stpaulsrochester.org/preschool/](http://stpaulsrochester.org/preschool/).



It's easy to use and free! Get it today!

### St. Paul's App For your mobile device

- Pay for books
- Donate to missions
- Donate to St. Paul's
- Preschool payments
- Pay your pledge
- Pay for youth work trip

Search "St. Paul's United Methodist" in the App Store.



A simple and easy way to make your contributions to St. Paul's and ensure your giving is used timely and effectively

to support all the great programs! You control the timing, amount, and manner to contribute (checking, savings or credit card). Sign up now and you can have your donation be transacted with a few clicks in a secure manner. Go to [stpaulsrochester.org](http://stpaulsrochester.org), click on GIVE to enroll or call the office at 248-651-9361. Be an eGiver and join the electronic age!

## SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

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

5	Epiphany - Holy Communion - Dedication of Memorials	Matthew 2:1-12	Aha!	Rev. Kress
12	UMW Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	Come and Be	Rev. Eardley
19	John 1:29-42	John 1:29-42	Come and See	Rev. Eardley
26	Baptism	Matthew 4:12-23	Come and Follow	Rev. Eardley
<b>The Open Door Service • Modern - 11 a.m. in Hickey Hall</b>				
5	John 1:1-19	Shine Your Light (It's a Wonderful Life)		Rev. May
12	Psalms 46:1-3	In Times of Trouble		Rev. Fitzgerald
19	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	In Times of Transition		Rev. Fitzgerald
26	Mark 4:35-41	In Times of Tension		Rev. Fitzgerald

## Sermon Series January

## Holy Communion

January 5 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 12

We will be collecting a "noisy" offering with proceeds supporting Liberia Global Mission. Please bring your coins!



## Blood Pressure Clinic

Sunday, January 12

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

Have your blood pressure checked and pick up information on Healthy House Tips.



## Upcoming Baptism Date

Sunday, January 19, March 15 & May 10

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.



## Looking Ahead... February

- 1<sup>st</sup> UMM Breakfast  
Support For Caregivers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Superbowl Sub Sale
- 9<sup>th</sup> Art FEST
- 18<sup>th</sup> JOY - Just Older Youth
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Harmony in the Hills Concert  
Zenith Brass 4:30 p.m.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday Worship