

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

February 2020



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

February 2020

Pastor's Message



Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever! Psalm 107:1 CEB

Dear St. Paul's family,

Our annual stewardship campaign will begin in March. Rather than focusing on the church's budget, we are inviting you to reflect on God's generosity in your life and prayerfully determine how God would have you give to our church ministries.

On Sunday, March 22, we will be asking people to return their Estimate of Giving cards as they have prayerfully considered growing in their giving for this year.

Our campaign is titled: "Taking the Next Step," and its focus is this prayer: "God, where would you have me be in my giving?" I have found this prayer encouraging and believe that it will be a significant prayer for you and your family. I look forward to sharing this discipleship journey with you as we take the next step together!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. David Eardley

February 2020 Evangel

If this is your first time reading one, then let me thank you for doing so and reading the valuable information inside. Each Evangel is a snapshot of how we live out the Greatest Commandment: Loving God and Loving our Neighbors as Ourselves. First, let me say thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Offering. To date, we have raised almost \$34,000 in support of outreach, missions, music, youth, and children's ministries... what a blessing! Inside this Evangel are further opportunities to grow your faith, special events for inviting your friends, opportunities to give your time, talent, and treasure as a response to God's transforming grace in your life... check it out! I'm sure there's something inside that will be a blessing for you!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. David Eardley



Sunday, February 9 at 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 or call the church office at 248-651-9361.



2020 General Conference Information Gathering

Sunday, February 9

5 - 6:30 p.m. in Rickard Chapel

We'll be gathering to discuss and pray for the upcoming 2020 General Conference, which will be held, May 5-15. This first gathering will focus on some of the proposals that have been submitted for the future of the United Methodist Church. Please contact Rev. David Eardley at DEardley@stpaulsrochester.org for more information.



The Pulse of St. Paul's

Worship Mixer

Sunday, February 16
12 - 2 p.m. in Hickey Hall

St. Paul's Music Department will be hosting a worship mixer to celebrate every member of our worship team including our musicians, writers and team of technicians. We also invite anyone who would like to join us in our ministry. Pizza, snacks, and refreshments will be served. Be prepared to jam to some classics as instruments will be provided. Come out for a time of fellowship, encouragement, and celebration as we usher in a new decade of music at St. Paul's.

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Zenith Brass

Sunday, February 23
4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Come and see Detroit's premier high school brass ensemble, made up of thirty talented youth musicians in our area. This all-brass and percussion ensemble performs music in a variety of styles: baroque, classical, romantic, 20th century, plus jazz, shows and movies. A free will offering will be collected.



Use Your Words

Sunday, February 16
7 - 8:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Use Your Words is a faith inspired storytelling event featuring local leaders from area non-profits including Rev. Faith Fowler from Cass, Kathy Losinski from Neighborhood House and Katie Woodstock from Methodist Children's Home sharing their reason for "doing what they do." **Come and get inspired!**



Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 26
7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Begin Lent with this youth-led special service with music, prayers, an inspiring message, Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. Childcare is provided; no reservations needed.



Taking the Next Steps

Small Groups forming soon!

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!**

Classes & Groups



Bridges - Beyond the Comfort of Color

Are you interested in participating?

St. Paul's Members and friends are invited to partake in a Christian faith commitment journey to explore bridging relationships with other Christians who, at first glance, appear different from us.

Those interested will be paired with members of another church during Lent. We'll meet for a potluck dinner. We'll invite our new friends to visit our church and have a meal in our home and we'll visit their church and have a meal in their home. We will also get together for a social event, not involving churches. Upon completing our time together, we will gather again as communities of faith to have a time of sharing about our experiences.

All who are interested in participating, please contact Rev. Carter Grimmatt at CGrimmett@stpaulsrochester.org.

If you are interested in preparing for this program, please visit Faith and Friends during January and February at 10 a.m. on Sundays in Room 132 as we study **Fear of the Other** by William H. Willimon, **White Fragility** video by Robin DiAngelo, and discuss United Methodist Church Social Principles.



Bare Book Bible Study (B³S)

Thursdays; 1 - 2:30 p.m. in Room 131

Join Rev. Grimmatt to explore and encounter the stories and adventures in scriptures, not as theological mysteries, but as great literary adventures of spiritual encounters. Better understand Old Testament stories with open discussion about scriptures, stories and

situations that seem troubling, confusing, or problematic to us.

Everyone is welcome. Register at the Welcome Center in the Narthex or call the 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.

Women's LIFE - Monday Nights

Mondays; 7 - 9 p.m. in Room 128/129

We desire to walk with purpose by understanding and instilling insights from our Bible study into our everyday lives. Come for the study, stay for the fellowship! Study to be determined by February 1. For update on study book, email Cynthia Andrews at csa4646@gmail.com.

Cancer Support Group

Thursday, January 30 - March 19
7 p.m. in Room 132

This group is for those with cancer or who have ever had cancer, as well as family members and friends of those with cancer. Each meeting includes a speaker on various topics followed by sharing time. The support and growth experienced in these groups is invaluable and amazing. For more information, call the church office at 248-651-9361.



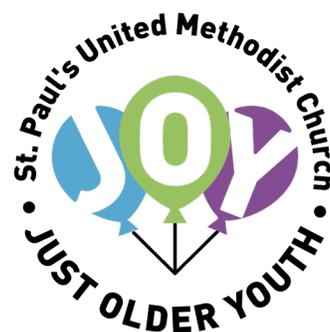
All men are welcome!

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 1
8 a.m. in Hickey Hall



Start your Saturday off with a great breakfast and some brotherhood! Feel free to bring a guest, no RSVP necessary. For more information contact Dave deSteiger at 248-376-0416. **Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.** Proverbs 27:17



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth (50 and above)
Tuesday, February 18

12 - 2 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Everyone age 50 and over is invited to be part of this very special group of JUST OLDER YOUTH! Bring your lunch; coffee and dessert provided. We will be treated to a special program by St. Paul's own Sam Wright! Come enjoy food, fellowship and very special music. **RSVP before February 17 by calling the office at 248-651-9361.**



HUGS Humor, Understanding, Growth and Support

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

HUGS Monthly mission: Sending love packages to St. Paul's homebound members. We'll have the kiddos make pictures and collect items to include in care packages for St. Paul's homebound. Check our Facebook page for items we are collecting or email Sue Evans at suecamevans@yahoo.com.

February 5 Hoodwinked: 10 Myths Moms Believe & Why We All Need to Knock It Off Each week runs independently, so you can come as your schedule allows! Let's replace the 10 modern myths of motherhood with the biblical truth of motherhood provided by God. 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.

February 12 - 26 Hoodwinked Join us for the last three sessions of the study.

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.

*** 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



February Circle Meetings

- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, February 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- **Faith Circle** - Thursday, February 13 at 1 p.m. in the Parlor - Program by Rev. Erin Fitzgerald.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, February 13 at 7 p.m. at Lynn Loeb's home - Program by Leslie Bennett.

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



UMW Mission Pin Recipients

Each year, St. Paul's United Methodist Women recognize dedicated individuals for outstanding service. On Sunday, January 12, **Michelle Moore, Susan Sonye, Lynda Liles and Jean Meyers** were recognized for their dedicated service in 2019 to St. Paul's and to the UMW mission work.

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.

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| February 2 | Bridges: A Faith Relationship - Rev. Grimmert |
| February 9 | Buoys - Tom Davenport |
| February 16 | TBD |
| February 23 | TBD - Ernie Schaefer |

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

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| February 2 | Loving the Other in Church |
| February 9 | Jesus, the Other |
| February 16 | White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo (video) |
| February 23 | United Methodist Church Social Principles |

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!

Missions

Warm Coats for Baldwin

Have you ever been cold?

Did you ever leave your house thinking it was warm only to discover that Mother Nature had turned ugly? We have neighbors who face this problem every day... and it is a "fixable" problem. St. Paul's will again be collecting NEW winter coats for Baldwin Center in Pontiac. Please shop the post-holiday sales and purchase coats in all sizes, infant through adult. 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. **Let's make winter just a little warmer for our neighbors.**



Family Bowling Event

Sunday, February 23; 1 - 3:30 p.m.
Avon North Hill Lanes; 150 W. Tienken Rd.
Bring your whole family for an afternoon of bowling. \$12 per person (cash or check) includes 2 games, shoes, pizza and drinks. Any questions, call Andrew Kralik at 248-941-5586.

St. Paul's 2020 Mission Project

Scholarships & Improvements
Henri Denis School
Monrovia, Liberia



Volunteers Needed!

Baldwin Center Soup Kitchen

The Baldwin Center in Pontiac provides invaluable services to hurting people, in part because the people of St. Paul's care. **The Baldwin Soup Kitchen is in need of volunteers!** Join with others from St. Paul's and help at the many opportunities available:

Every Monday

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Preparing lunch

Second Monday of the month

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Serving lunch

Fourth Thursday, September - June

5 - 7:30 p.m. Serving prepared plated dinners to after school children.

To volunteer, please contact Susan Heacock at 248-853-5696.

St. Paul's Mission Project 2020

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.

\$15,000 will be dedicated to supporting the solar power network needed for the school (or similar facilities upgrades).

Would you like to learn more about Liberia?

Pick up a copy of **This Child Will Be Great** by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first woman President ever elected in Africa. This is a great tie-in to our 2020 Global Mission project.





Super Bowl Subs

Sales: January 19 & 26
 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
 Narthex & Hickey Hall
Distribution: February 2
 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
 Outside Hickey Hall

For just \$10 you get a turkey or ham sub sandwich loaded with meat, chips and cookies. Proceeds support the High School Youth summer worktrip to Ponce, PR June 20-27.

Thank you for your support!

Middle School Youth Group

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

Follows Confirmation & Journey. Dinner \$5.

- Feb 2 No Youth Group
- Feb 9 Use Your Gifts
- Feb 16 No Youth Group - Winter Break
- Feb 23 Practice Makes Great - Ash Wednesday Prep

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 (\$5) & youth group fun!

- Feb 2 No Youth Group
- Feb 9 Pass It On
- Feb 16 No Youth Group - Winter Break
- Feb 23 Practice Makes Great - Ash Wednesday Prep

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!



Ponce, Puerto Rico Worktrip Fundraiser

- Feb 1 Super Bowl sub making 10 a.m.- noon in St. Paul's Kitchen
- Feb 2 Super Bowl sub distribution 10 a.m. - noon in Hickey Hallway

Scholarships Available

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

St. Paul's Scholarship

Scholarships are available to eligible members of St. Paul's UMC 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 UMW Scholarship

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



St. Paul's Preschool Open House

Tuesday, February 11

6:30 - 8 p.m. in Preschool Classrooms

St. Paul's Preschool will be hosting an Open House to welcome new and returning families. Our program is Christ-centered, play-based, and literacy-rich! We offer half-day programs for "young threes," three-year-old, and four-year-old children that promote the development of the whole child as an individual.

Come and see how we can provide a warm and nurturing environment where your child can thrive!

- 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

Applications available online at stpaulsrochester.org/preschool/ or in church office. Email us at preschool@stpaulsrochester.org.





Finance Committee Corner

On Finances:

St. Paul's had another successful financial year in 2019. Although a small deficit was experienced, it was smaller than what was budgeted. Cost savings by the

Trustees and lower than budget wage cost helped reduce the deficit expected. The Endowment and cash reserve funds perform very well at the United Methodist Foundation (which does the investment management for these two funds). The Endowment fund provided approximately \$20,000 from earnings for special projects. The cash reserve fund provided \$15,000 from earnings to help fund the stewardship consultant expense.

Gifts for the Christmas offering will likely achieve the goal set by Rev. Eardley. Some gifts for the Christmas offering are still being received.

We also had a strong level of giving in 2020 gift prepaid donations. We received in excess of \$75,000 for 2020 giving in December.

The pastors and Finance Committee are truly grateful for the continued generosity of the congregation as we thank God for the blessing we have received.

"Taking the Next Step" stewardship campaign will be in March. The committees of the church have prepared spending plans for 2020 and those plans will be reviewed in the Finance Committee at its January 22 meeting. Please continue to donate as you did 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

Holy Communion

February 2; 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.



Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 9

9 & 11 a.m. in Sanctuary

All scouts are encouraged to wear their scout uniform and be recognized for their participation in scouting.

Noisy Offering

Sunday, February 9

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



Blood Pressure Clinic

Sunday, February 9

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

Have your blood pressure checked and pick up information on Heart Health and Stroke Prevention.



SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

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

2 **Holy Communion**

Matthew 5:1-12 Happiness Redefined Rev. Eardley

9 **Scout Sunday - ArtFEST**

Matthew 5:13-20 Faith Redefined Rev. Eardley

16 Matthew 5:21-37 Relationships Redefined Rev. Grimmett

23 **Transfiguration Sunday - Taking the Next Step**

Matthew 17:1-9 Jesus Redefined Rev. Eardley

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

2 Genesis 24:26-27 Relationships: Partner/Spouse Rev. Grimmett

9 1 Timothy 5:4-16 Relationships: Caregiving/Parenting Rev. Fitzgerald

16 Luke 10:25-37 Relationships: Friends/Neighbors Rev. Fitzgerald

23 Revelation 21:1-7 The Beloved Community Rev. Fitzgerald

Sermon Series February

Upcoming Baptism Date

Sunday, 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 to March

4th UMW Lenten Breakfast

7th UMM Breakfast

Support For Caregivers

17th JOY - Just Older Youth

20th Lenten Concert at noon

22th Harmony in the Hills Concert

27th Lenten Concert at noon