

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

December 2021

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St. Paul's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rochester, Michigan

December 2021



The Joy of Christmas

Greetings in Jesus Christ! This Advent your church is providing powerful, worship-filled opportunities for you, your friends, and neighbors to experience the joy of Christmas, both in-person and online. Each Sunday we'll be drawn closer to Bethlehem and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the midst of all your planning and doing, I also invite you to make time to pray, reflect, and prepare your hearts and lives to welcome the Prince of Peace. It is my hope that our worship services and special events this December will draw you, your family, and our many guests to Bethlehem and the birth of the Son of God. So give yourself permission to make time to worship the Christ and allow his peace to calm your anxious spirit, encourage your joy, and renew your hope. We don't have to wait until December 25 to find the true meaning of Christmas, for our God is with us even now.

I look forward to celebrating with you this month at St. Paul's and experiencing the true joy of Christmas... together!

A Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas,

Rev. David Eardley



Volunteers Needed!

Kris Kringle Market

Friday, December 3; 4 - 10 p.m.

Saturday, December 4; 12 - 10 p.m.

St. Paul's will have a booth in downtown Rochester on December 3 and 4. The FISH Committee is looking for volunteers to help sell quilts and other Handmade Treasures and invite our neighbors to worship with us during Advent. All proceeds will go towards Rochester Area Neighborhood House. For more information, please email Donna Heflin at Heflin.donnaj@gmail.com or Rob Patten at Robpattenjr@comcast.net.

Christmas and Candlelight

Featuring Olivia Dear
Tuesday, December 7
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

St. Paul's United Methodist Women invite the congregation to an evening of music and fellowship.

It is UMW's holiday gift to you. A Covid-friendly take-out snack will be available.

Musical presentation provided by Olivia Dear, (formerly Olivia Millerschin) who captivates audiences with her celestial voice, wrapping them in a gossamer blend of modern pop and folk songwriting.



Year End Giving

All Gifts for 2021 must be postmarked by December 31

All gifts for credit in the year 2021 must be dated 2021 and RECEIVED by the church by December 31 or POSTMARKED

in the year 2021. Also, if you are prepaying a 2022 pledge, please make that notation on the check and envelope. Thanks for your continued and faithful support.

Advent Concert Series

Fridays, December 3, 10 & 17

Noon in the Sanctuary

Add something special to your Advent Fridays by attending these 30-minute concerts. Free Admission.

- December 3** Knight Vernon, pianist
- December 10** Dr. Randall plays the hymnal from beginning to end in a marathon session. Come and go as you please.
- December 17** Carolyn Thibideau, organist



HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Harmony in the Hills Concert

The Motor City Brass

Sunday, December 12

4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Craig Strain and the Motor City Brass bring their Christmas program of music to St. Paul's. Suggested donation \$15.

All Music Sunday

Sunday, December 19

10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Celebrate Christmas with a Service of Carols and Readings featuring St. Paul's Music department including adult and handbell choirs, children's choir, praise teams and orchestra.

There is no Open Door service December 19.

Blue Christmas

Tuesday, December 21

7 p.m. on Facebook

St. Paul's invites you to a special service designed for those for whom the holidays may be difficult. If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, a transition or life change due to illness, depression, separation or divorce, please know that your church cares about you and offers a time for reflection, prayer and scripture. It is our prayer that you will find comfort and hope in knowing that you are not alone, your feelings are honored and that God knows your pain and loves you unconditionally.



Find us on Facebook at St. Paul's United Methodist Church-Rochester.



Las Posadas Christmas

Thursday, December 23

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A joy-filled service for families celebrating the journey of Mary and Joseph searching for a safe place for the birth of Jesus.

Featuring posada (meaning "the inn") play, Mariachi music and traditional dancers.

Classes & Groups



Seeker's Study

**Mondays, November 29 - December 20
1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

You are invited to join us for an Advent study, **The Heart That Grew Three Sizes... Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch**, by Matt Rawle. Our book study group has learned much about the intersection of our culture and faith through Rawle's look at *The Grace of Les Miserable* and *The Gift of The Nutcracker*. This Advent season we will look at the familiar classic of the Grinch

through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. Come be part of this four week study as we rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons and bows. Books can be ordered from Cokesbury, Barnes and Noble and Amazon. We hope you will be part of this welcoming group. Email Pastor Judy at JMay@stpaulsrochester.org and you're in!



SPARK Christmas Luncheon Thursday, December 2

1:30 p.m. at Rochester Mills

Join us for our annual Christmas luncheon with a twist. We will be meeting at Rochester Mills Brewing Company for lunch and will remain for our meeting and selection of books for 2022. Please RSVP to Linda at lkb_jab@hotmail.com or 248-765-5511 for reservation.



Adult Ministry

St. Paul's has over twenty Adult Ministry leaders facilitating small groups, support groups and Bible study classes. If you are interested in joining a group or possibly starting one of your own, please contact

Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org for more information.



Chair Yoga

Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the Narthex

Please accept this invitation to join our chair yoga group of men and women to relax, stretch and renew. The sessions with Kristi Paul are 45 minutes in length and cost \$10. Please use the Sanctuary entrance and wear your mask.

Sunday Adult Studies

Sundays at 11 a.m.; No Class December 19 & 26

Faith & Friends Spiritual Growth Study; Room 132

We invite newcomers to drop in at anytime to participate in our study **Navigating Isaiah** (found on Amplify Media). We are a warm and welcoming class who have been together since the late 1990's.

December 5: Chapter 5

December 12: Chapter 6

For further information contact Judy Smouter at smouterj@comcast.net.

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. Join us and see if you don't feel right at home!

December 5: Attend Cass Breakfast at Royal Park Hotel

December 12: Christ Time in the Church - Rev. Judy May

For more information, contact Cyndee Andrews at 248-370-0970 or csa4646@aol.com.

Yoga

Tuesdays

**4 - 5 p.m. in the
Narthex**

Everyone is welcome to join us for yoga, a step up from Chair Yoga. Led by instructor Kristy Paul, this class costs only \$10 per session. Come and give it a try!



United Methodist Men

Saturday, December 4
8 a.m. on Zoom

All men invited, guests always welcome. When we are unable to meet for breakfast due to health protocols, we meet via Zoom. Contact Dave deSteiger at 248-376-0416 or drdesteiger@ray-electric.com.



United Methodist Women

"Serve one another in love..." Galatians 5:13

December Circle Meetings

- **New Hope Circle** - Tuesday, December 7 at 7 p.m. in Sanctuary - Christmas and Candlelight.
 - **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, December 8 at 1 p.m. lunch at Rochester Mills, 400 Water St., Rochester.
 - **Patience Circle** - Thursday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- Executive Board Meeting:** Tuesday, December 16 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.



NEW! 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Early Bird Men's Group

Wednesday, December 15
6:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Join us for devotions, conversation, and prayer as we grow in Christ's love and live out our faith. All men are welcome! Contact Larry Heflin at HLarry2828@gmail.com or Bob Johnson at bobgj@prodigy.net for more information.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

2nd Tuesday of the Month
1 - 2:30 p.m. in Room 132

All are welcome even if you wish to learn. Masks are required. The prayer shawls are located in the Narthex during services for anyone to take for giving to others in need of comfort.

Quilt & Handmade Treasures Ministry

2nd Tuesday of the Month
2:30 - 4 p.m. in Room 132

We meet together to create lap quilts for others in need of comfort. Quilts are located in the Narthex during services. Handmade Treasures are created to sell at church or other events, raising funds for church missions. All proceeds are donated. Fabrics and threads can be provided.



Christmas Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 12
9:45 - 11:30 a.m.; Narthex & Hickey Hall

Purchase an excellent variety of homemade cookies and holiday treats pre-boxed to take home or give as gifts. All proceeds go entirely to local missions supported by our UMW.

Bakers needed! Email Kathy Swisher at swish1770@aol.com. Deliver cookies to the Parlor on Saturday, December 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS. Share your favorite cookies!

Specialty Cookies

Order deadline is December 7

Lynn Loeb is taking orders for sugar cookie Christmas trees (designs will vary) and gingerbread reindeer cookies. Cookies are \$4 each or 3/\$10. Pre-orders highly recommended. Contact Lynn at 248-408-7147.



HUGS. Humor, Understanding, Growth and Support

For mothers and grandmothers of all ages

Wednesdays at 9:30 - 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor (unless otherwise noted)



December 1 How to Turn the Holidays into Holy Days Let's share traditions we have in our own families or tips we've acquired and want to implement.

December 8 Mindfulness Let's share ways to help us regain our peace as we rush head on with Christmas preparations!

December 15 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION We'll take this opportunity to be merry and bright as we prepare for Christmas. Please feel welcome to come whether this is the first time you've been to HUGS or whether you are a seasoned veteran!

December 22 & 29 No HUGS We are off until January 12

See stpaulsrochester.org/calendar/ for more detailed information. HUGS observes the Rochester Community Schools calendar. When schools are closed, HUGS will not meet. Childcare unavailable at this time.

Please Remember...

Remember our homebound members this Christmas by sending a card to those listed below. Include a little note letting them know that you are remembering them and praying for them. Our homebound members get so much enjoyment from reading all of the notes and cards.



Mr. David Beerer (Donna)
1301 Hathaway Rising
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Mrs. Ellen Brown
2251 Auburn Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Mrs. Louise Button
730 Forrest Hills SE #114
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Mrs. Ann Champion
252 Meadowfield Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Mrs. Joyce Heller
873 W. Avon #134B
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Mrs. Sandee Heath
175 East Nawakwa Rd. #222
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Mrs. Ruth Kelliher
1212 Kings Cove Ct.
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Mrs. Diane McElreath
2040 Carlton Ct.
White Lake, MI 48383

Mrs. Marilyn Pradko
6931 Central Park
Shelby Twp., MI 48317

Mr. Bill & Mrs. Rosalene Ray
160 Stark Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Mrs. Louise Sampson
13464 Blue Shore Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49686

Mr. Jim and Mrs. Gayle Schuman
1775 S. Rochester Rd. #114
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Mr. David and Mrs. Isabelle Smith
3631 Lexington Dr.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Mrs. Thelma Welbaum
46100 Schoenherr Room 518
Shelby Twp., MI 48315

Mr. Carl Wellenkotter (Arva)
184 Shagbark
Rochester Hills, MI 48309



Christmas Basket Project

St. Paul's has committed to help at least 100 families in need with our partners at Neighborhood House. Unfortunately, the supply chain continues to be unreliable and our friends at Hollywood Market can not commit that they will be able to supply the necessary items. So, we will instead provide Hollywood Market gift certificates to Neighborhood House clients as a way of making their Christmas a little brighter. Gift card distribution will be **December 16 & 17 from 12 - 2 p.m. and 5 - 6 p.m. and December 18 from 10 a.m. - noon.** You are invited to participate in any of these time slots - no reservations required - just a friendly attitude and a warm smile.



To make a financial donation, please write "Christmas Baskets" on the envelope and on the memo line of your check made out to St. Paul's UMC or donate online at stpaulsrochester.org and click on **Give** tab.

Scholarships for Students in Liberia

Missions Council is excited to announce that we will be supporting twenty-eight students in the Kakata-Farmington School District in Liberia. Thanks to the generosity of an individual donor and supplemented by funds from St. Paul's members, we will be forwarding a check for \$4,700 for tuition and fees for the 2021-22 school year. In addition, we will also be supporting at least fifty students at the Henri Dennis School as soon as we receive the 2021-22 student list.

Looking Ahead

Red Bird Work Trip

We are planning a Red Bird Work Trip for October 2022 and we would love to have you join us. We want to recruit some folks with less gray hair and stronger muscles. If you have ever considered an Adult Work Trip, this is the one for you. Beautiful country, (but difficult to get to), good chow, (but you do have to clean up after yourself), wonderful sleeping accommodations, (just like summer camp), and great company! What could be better than that? Contact Mary Miller at earl.mary.miller@att.net or Larry Hice at larryhttp@aol.com to get your spot on the team.





Baby's First Christmas

Sunday, December 5
10 a.m. in Hickey Hall

If your child or grandchild will be celebrating their first Christmas this season, we invite you to join us on Sunday, December 5 at the Open Door service to be recognized. All new babies will be celebrated with a new book and ornament. Porch drops are an option if you are unable to attend worship. Please email Amy Heitman at Amy@stpaulsrochester.org.



Youth Fundraiser

Gourmet Pretzel Sale

Sunday, December 5; 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
in the Narthex and Hickey Hallway

Support the Youth Summer Worktrip to Copperhill, TN by purchasing delicious handmade gourmet pretzels. These make great treats for the holidays.

Middle School Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders and their friends
Sundays 5 - 6:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall
Dinner \$5

Dec 5 Christmas Fun

Dec 12 Spreading Christmas Cheer

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

High School Youth Group

All 9th - 12th graders and their friends
Sundays, 5 - 6:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall
Dinner \$5.

Dec 5 It's Christmas time!

Dec 12 Spreading Christmas Cheer

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!



Have a wonderful Christmas filled with love and laughter!

Youth Group resumes January 9.



Armor for Life - Looking to the Cross

New Class for Youth

Sundays, December 5, 12, & 19

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Youth Lounge

All 8th - 12th graders are welcome to join Grant and Cameron Renny who will lead a class exploring Bible stories and how they pertain to our current lives. This class will follow the Sunday school class calendar.

Las Posadas Christmas

Thursday, December 23

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Families are invited to share in a joy-filled service celebrating the journey of Mary and Joseph searching for a safe place for the birth of Jesus. This service will feature the posada (meaning 'the inn') play, Mariachi music and traditional dancers. **Costumes will be available for children to participate as angels, Mary or Joseph.**



Better Together Sundays following 10 a.m. worship

Do you miss the days of hanging out and chatting in person? Are you hoping to meet friends from all walks of life and age groups? Our goal is simple — we want to hang out, get to know each other, give back to the community, and maybe learn something new along the way, all in a relaxed environment. Come and check us out!

December 5, 12 & 19 - Join us for a casual chat in Room 123

December 26 — No Class

*For parents who participate in Sunday classes other than Better Together, their students will be able to gather in the Youth Lounge each week for Christian Education.



If you wish to order a Poinsettia for Sunday, December 19, fill out this form and send it with your check for \$15 each to St. Paul's UMC, 620 Romeo St., Rochester, MI 48307, Attn: Poinsettias. The deadline to order is December 6.

Sleeved flowers may be: (please CHECK ONE)

- picked up after the 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Service on December 19
- picked up after Christmas Eve Service on December 24
- or may be given to a person who is homebound

Given by (PRINT) _____ Phone: _____

In Loving Memory of _____

or In Honor of _____

_____ will pick up my plant.
Name on tag _____

Poinsettia Sunday is December 19



Orders due December 6

Help decorate the church and memorialize or honor loved ones by purchasing a poinsettia. Please use the form at the left or call the office at 248-651-9361.

Holy Communion December 5 at all 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.

Blood Pressure Clinic Sunday, December 12 11 - 11:30 a.m. in the Narthex



Stop by to have your blood pressure checked. Masks must be worn.

Upcoming Baptism Date Sunday, January 16



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.

Christmas Eve Services in the Sanctuary

Thursday, December 23

Las Posadas Christmas

7 p.m. - Rev. April Gutierrez

A joy-filled service for families celebrating the journey of Mary and Joseph searching for a safe place for the birth of Jesus with posada play, Mariachi music and traditional dancers.

Friday, December 24

Family Service

4 p.m. - Rev. April Gutierrez

Join us as we celebrate the good news of Christmas with a family-friendly service full of music, joy, glow candles, and a children's story.

Candlelight Services

7 & 10 p.m. - Rev. David Eardley

Traditional service of carols, lessons and candlelight.

Services also on Facebook. Find us at St. Paul's United Methodist Church-Rochester.



SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

Worship at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 5 | Communion • Second Sunday in Advent | |
| | Philippians 2:12-18 | Shining Like Stars |
| | | Rev. Gutierrez |
| 12 | Third Sunday in Advent | |
| | Philippians 3:10-14 | Captivated |
| | | Rev. Eardley |
| 19 | All Music Sunday • Fourth Sunday in Advent | |
| | Philippians 4:4-7 | Rejoice |
| | | Rev. Eardley |
| 26 | Luke 2:41-52 | Searching for Jesus |
| | | Rev. May |

Open Door Worship at 10 a.m. in Hickey Hall

- | | | | |
|----|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| 5 | Luke 3:1-6 | The Fear of Home | Rev. Kress |
| 12 | Luke 7:1-18 | The Joy of Home | Rev. Gutierrez |

Sermon Series December