

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

January 2022



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January 2022

Pastor's Message



Happy New Year!

As we begin 2022, I am excited about the opportunities for mission and ministry that await us as we inspire people to live and love like Jesus. God is preparing our church to be a blessing to the people around us, of that I have no doubt. The new year 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, whether it may be online or on campus. 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. It could be as simple as sharing our online worship service on Facebook, or even passing this Evangel along to a family member or friend. I will be praying for God to help us all see the opportunities we have to reach out in our communities with the love of Jesus.

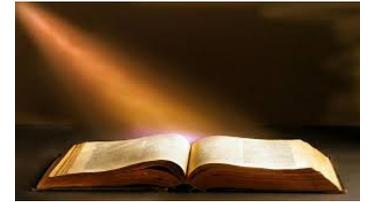
As God leads us, may we continue inspiring people to live and love like Jesus. To God be the glory!

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!



UMW Sunday

Sunday, January 9

10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The United Methodist Women will have their installation of Officers for 2022 during the 10 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary and will recognize five individuals for their dedication and service to St. Paul's.



3rd Sunday

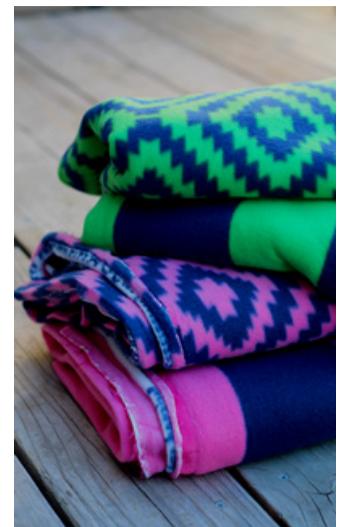
Mission Opportunity

Sunday, January 16

11 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Blanket Palooza - Join us as we make fleece tie blankets for the Baldwin Center. In the last 5 years making blankets for area shelters, we have donated over 300 blankets! Please bring a fleece blanket kit or 2 pieces of fleece measuring 2 yards x 2 yards and scissors. We will have additional kits on site to use for those unable to provide fleece.

This is a great event for all ages.



Looking Ahead

4th Sunday Real Faith for Real Life

Sunday, February 27

11 a.m. in the Lounge (Room 120-121)

Faith in Diversity - Join us after worship for a time to gather to discuss diversity through our faith. Learn about our programs and how we are being intentional in developing an inclusive church and how we can become more loving and accepting of others.

SkyCraft Booster Meeting

Sunday, January 9

11:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Are you a performer, technician, or just a fan of the arts in general? Join us as we discuss plans for SkyCraft Theatre Works in 2022. There are lots of opportunities for the performing arts at St. Paul's. Connect with SkyCraft and help us bring the next show to life!

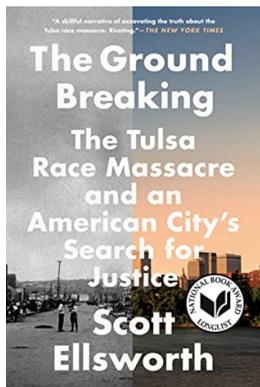
Looking Ahead

SkyCraft Valentine Cabaret

Friday, February 11

7:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Enjoy some love-inspired musical theatre and pop hits sung by local Michigan artists and a live band.



Book Discussion

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

January 11 - part 1

January 25 - part 2

February 8 - part 3

Join us in reading **The Ground Breaking**.

This book details how the story of a massacre in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area was covered up for half a century.

The book is available on Amazon and several book stores.

Please register in advance for these meetings by clicking the link on our website stpaulsrochester.org calendar entry for January 11. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Contact Sharon Hiller at 810-305-8716 with questions.

Sunday Adult Studies

Sundays at 11 a.m.; No Class January 2

Faith & Friends Spiritual Growth Study; Room 132

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

January 9: Justice or Just Us - session 3

January 16: Justice or Just Us - session 4

January 23: What are We Fighting For - session 1

January 30: What are We Fighting For - session 2

For more info, 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!

January 9: Youth Ministries - Jodi Stuermer & Amy Heitman

January 16: 3rd Sunday Mission

January 23: TBD - Rachel Henry

January 30: Jacob's Ladder & Slavery - Sigrid Grace & Marsh Cooper

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



Classes & Groups



Seeker's Study

**Mondays, January 10 - February 14
1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

Everyone is invited to join the Seeker's Book Study for our study of **Short Stories of Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of A Controversial Rabbi**. Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and the meaning of his ministry. New Testament scholar, Amy-Jill Levine, will guide us as we learn about the parables' connection to 1st

century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Hebrew Scripture and Roman culture, and how all of that informs 21st century Christians. We plan meet in the Parlor but the study will also be available on Zoom and the Owl. The book is available in paperback and can be purchased at Cokesbury and most major booksellers.

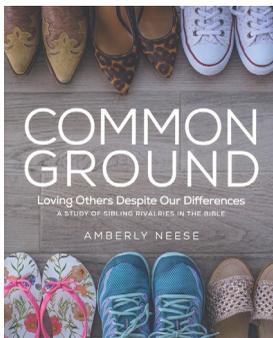
Grief Support Group

**Wednesday, January 5
7 p.m. in Lounge
(Room 120/121)**

If you are grieving the loss of a spouse, partner, sibling, parent, child, friend or even a cherished pet; you are not alone. We offer a grace filled space for you to share with others that know what you are going through. No matter where you are on your journey, we are there to support you. Sessions will meet weekly and are facilitated by a Social Worker and Stephen Minster. All those grieving are welcome to attend. Contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org for more information.



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, January 17 - February 14
7 - 9 p.m. in Room 128-129**

Join us as we study Amberly Neese's **Common Ground, Loving Others Despite Our Differences**. "Stories from the Old and New Testament will point us to peace and reconciliation in all our relationships, reassuring us that it is possible to find common ground with everyone - despite our differences." To register contact Rebecca

Lawson at rjlawson3912@gmail.com or 248-568-6382.

United Methodist Men

**Saturday, January 8
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.



SPARK Book Group

**Thursday, January 20
1:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

Join us as we discuss *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. We welcome new members! If you have questions, call Linda Burnard at 248-736-1893.

Looking Ahead

Women's LIFE Friday - Twelve More Women of the Bible
Fridays, beginning February 4; 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor
Leaders: Nancy Fidler & Sharon Hiller

We will focus first on six Old Testament women with a Lenten study during March and April. Books (\$12) with a few pages of weekly reading plus a video to be shown in class (No homework for the first class). Please email Nancy at fidlers4@comcast.net to reserve a book or find out more.

Classes & Groups



HUGS Humor, Understanding, Growth and Support Mothers and grandmothers of all ages Wednesdays; 9:30 - 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor (unless otherwise noted)

January 12 Mugs & HUGS Off Campus Sue's house (4657 Fawn Hill Court, 248-672-1004) 9:30 - 11 a.m. We will meet for casual conversation and well-deserved rest and relaxation. I have toys and coloring supplies, so please bring the infants/toddlers. You are welcome whether this is the first time or whether you are a seasoned veteran!

January 19 Beat the Winter Blues You survived the chaos of the Christmas season, but the winter is still young. We'll catch our breath, check in with each other and gear up for snowy days ahead. We can discuss ways to keep the morale strong in your homes as kids (and parents) develop cabin fever.

January 26 Prayer Times for Families We'll discuss engaging ways to teach your kids to pray in ways that are fun and interactive.

Monthly Mission: Replenish the food at the Neighborhood House Food Pantry which is always depleted after the holidays. We'll collect items each week in January. See what is needed at ranh.org/donate-items.

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.

United Methodist Women

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



January Circle Meetings

- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, January 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, January 13 at 7 p.m. in Rickard Chapel to plan for 2022.

Executive Board Meeting: Thursday, February 17 at 9 a.m. on Zoom.

Despite Challenges, UMW Donates \$20,000

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



The last two years, the United Methodist Women have had to adapt in their fundraising, being flexible and embracing new ideas. Unable to hold the traditional rummage sales, the major source of funds, the women held virtual rummage sales and hosted a Treasures in the Trunk sale. Bake sales were modified to meet new health safety guidelines. Despite the challenges, when the UMW

Executive Board met on December 16 for their annual Spend-Down meeting they had **\$13,000** to donate on top of nearly **\$7000** already donated during the year. In 2021 the UMW donated **\$20,000** to missions!

Here is a breakdown of the donations prior to December 16:

- Neighborhood House/Clothes Closet \$600**
- Cass Community Social Services \$250**
- Baldwin Center \$250**
- Methodist Children's Home Society \$50**
- UM Retirement Home \$50**
- UMW District Pledge \$3000**
- St. Paul's Minister's discretionary fund \$500**
- St. Paul's UMC \$650**
- Christmas baskets \$100**
- St. Paul's grounds \$50**
- St. Paul's UMW Scholarships \$750**
- Liberian Scholarships \$600**
- Hats & Gloves \$750** - With help from the congregation we purchased \$2,000 worth of hats & gloves including 180 hats and gloves to Baldwin Avenue Mission, 48 hats and gloves to Neighborhood House, and 8 hand knitted hats to Neighborhood House that will be used in their Christmas project.





Mission Corner

Recap of Activity

Glimpse of the Future

Baldwin Center: We need additional volunteers for our monthly commitment to serve Baldwin Center. Baldwin continues to serve over 2000 clients per week with sack lunches and needed services. Our volunteer list shrinks this time of year. If you are available on the second Monday of the month and want to serve, please contact Susan Heacock at sheacock@icloud.com.

A partial list of the support we have provided our Mission Partners in 2021 includes the following:

Baldwin Center: Cash donations of \$7,500, 564 coats, 600 pounds of canned goods and personal care products.

Cass Community Social Services: Cash donations of \$7,500, a truck load of hand and power tools for the Tiny Homes tool crib.

Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County: Cash donation of \$2,000

Henri Dennis and Liberia Scholarships: Provided \$4,700 in scholarship support to Kakata-Farmington school district. Provided \$6,500 in scholarship support to Henri Dennis school.

Methodist Children's Home: We donated \$1000 at the end of Q2 from the MCHS Designated Giving account. St. Paul's volunteers went to the school in May and did spring clean-up for the Administration building and Kresge Chapel.

Neighborhood House: Cash donation of \$1,500, volunteer team for spring clean up and 56 Easter Baskets.

Redbird Mission: Cash donation of \$1,000, 123 paperback NT and Bible study supplies.

Red Cross: Collected 108 blood products in 2021.

UMCOR: Cash donation of \$7,250, donated 22 Flood Bucket Cleaning Kits.

This list does not include all the wonderful work and donations from the United Methodist Women. I am sure I have missed a few things, but this list should give everyone a sense of how this Church family responds to local, national, and international Mission opportunities. Now 2022 provides us new opportunities to express our love, generosity, and faith. *-Larry Hice*

For more information or to become part of our Missions team, please contact Larry Hice at larryhttp@aol.com or Pastor April Gutierrez at AGutierrez@stpaulsrochester.org.

Christmas Basket Project

St. Paul's distributed Hollywood Market gift certificates to eighty plus families right here in the Rochester area. Each donation envelope contained a Christmas card created by our Sunday School kids, a letter of introduction about St. Paul's, some hot chocolate mix, and a bag of individually wrapped cookies in addition to the gift certificate. Your generosity and support made all this possible. Well done, Church.



Warm Coats for Baldwin

In the past 9 years, the generous congregation of St. Paul's has donated approximately 1700 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 6 - March 6.** Last year we collected a record 330 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.

NEW!

Monthly Parent Gathering for Parents of Youth & Confirmands Sunday, January 9 5 p.m. in the Parlor

Do you need a soft place to land that is faith-based and grace-filled? Come as you are, drop your child at youth group or confirmation and join us for our first session on Sunday, January 9. We will gather together to connect with others and enjoy a meal. Other scheduled dates are February 27, March 27 and April 24. Just come or contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org for more information.

New Class for Youth

Armor for Life Looking to the Cross Sundays, January 9, 16, 23 & 30 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. 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.



Youth Fundraiser raised \$976

Gourmet Pretzel Sale

Thank you to Kim Merola for making our gourmet pretzels and thanks to all those who supported this fundraiser in December. We raised \$976 for our worktrip to Copperhill, TN.

Middle School Youth Group

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

Jan 2 No youth group, Happy New Year!

Jan 9 Blanket Palooza

Jan 16 No youth group, MLK break

Jan 23 Youth for Youth

Jan 30 Snow Day! Dress warm just in case we get snow!!

High School Youth Group

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

Jan 2 No youth group, Happy New Year!

Jan 9 Blanket Palooza

Jan 16 No youth group, MLK break

Jan 23 YouLead

Jan 30 Snow Day! Dress warm just in case we get snow!!



Third Thursday Dinner Out

January 20 at 6:30 p.m.; Location TBD

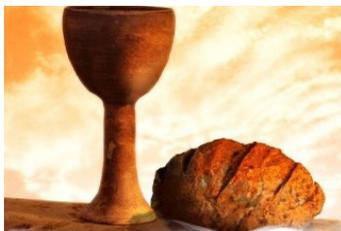
All HS youth are welcome for a FREE dinner out. Bring friends and a big appetite. Watch the Youth Ministry Newsletter for location details.



3rd Sunday Mission Opportunity

Sunday, January 16; 11 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Blanket Palooza - Join us as we make fleece tie blankets for the Baldwin Center. In the last 5 years making blankets for area shelters, we have donated over 300 blankets! Please bring a fleece blanket kit or 2 pieces of fleece measuring 2 yards x 2 yards and scissors. We will have additional kits on site to use for those unable to provide fleece. **This is a great event for all ages.**



Holy Communion

January 2 at 10 a.m. in Hickey Hall

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, January 9

11 - 11:30 a.m. in the Narthex

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



Upcoming Baptism Dates

January 23 & May 8

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



St. Paul's Preschool Registration for Fall 2022

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

Open Registration begins February 1, 2022. 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.

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

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP **Worship with us!**

Worship at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

2	Communion • Epiphany • Prayer, Anointing and Healing Worship in Hickey Hall	
9	UMW Sunday • Get to Know St. Paul's Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 You Are Beloved	Rev. May
16	3 rd Sunday Mission John 2:1-11 No Longer Ordinary	Rev. Eardley
23	Baptism • 4 th Sunday Real Faith for Real Life Luke 4:14-21 Proclaiming the Good News	Rev. Eardley
30	Celebrating God's Story Luke 4:21-30 What did he just say?	Rev. Eardley

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

2	Luke 2:15-21 The Light of Home	Rev. Gutierrez
9	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Love Never Ends: Well Pleased	Rev. Eardley
16	1 Cor. 12:1-11 Varieties of Gifts	Rev. Gutierrez
23	1 Cor. 12:12-31a You Are the Body	Rev. Gutierrez
30	1 Cor. 13:1-13 The Greatest of These	Rev. Gutierrez

Sermon Series **January**

Looking Ahead... February

5 th	UMM Breakfast Support for Caregivers Group
11 th	SkyCraft Cabaret
15 th	JOY - Just Older Youth
16 th	Early Bird Men's Group
17 th	SPARK Book Group
20 th	3 rd Sunday Mission: Soldier/Veteran Support
27 th	4 th Sunday Real Faith for Real Life- Diversity