

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

April 2020

Special
Covid-19
Edition



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

April 2020



Words of Encouragement

The world has shifted quickly in ways we did not expect. We have faith, however, that God is still at work for good in our lives and in the world.

Daily your church pastors and staff are lifting you in our prayers. Even as we pray, we feel the power and the love of your prayers for each of us, our community, and our world. This is an unprecedented time in our lives and in our world, filled with disruptions and uncertainty, but there is one significant holy constant through it all: our loving and generous God. Now, more than ever, as followers of Jesus Christ, we daily lean into God's strength, peace, and comfort, even as we feel the Holy Spirit surrounding us. Prayer, scripture reading, reflecting on the **A Generous Life** daily devotional, and filling our family's empty glass with examples of gratitude bring much assurance that God is with us and that God is greater than any challenge we may face.

Below you'll find the words that I used for the concluding blessing from our online worship service. I've also included two additional verses, because I truly believe Paul captures a faithful mindset and perspective for such a time as this. You may want to consider making these verses part of your evening devotion time, so that you are concluding your day claiming and remembering these powerful promises from God.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

Here's the bonus part...

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9

Stay safe and healthy and may the God of love and life hold you, sustain you, and encourage you now and always.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. David Eardley

Financial Gifts to the Church

If you haven't done so, this is a great time to set up online giving. Your giving helps us maintain ministry during this time of disruption. We give thanks to God for your commitment to generous living. Gifts may be mailed to the church. Online giving is also an option. You can set up recurring gifts or one-time donations through our St. Paul's app or on the church website. Please know that we will be continuing our Taking the Next Steps stewardship campaign online and through the mail. Any questions? Please call at 248-651-9361 or email the church.



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

St. Paul's App For your mobile device

- Pay your pledge
- Complete Estimate of Giving card
- Donate to missions

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



A simple and easy way to make your contributions to St. Paul's. Sign up now and you can have your donation be transacted with a few clicks in a secure manner. Go to stpaulsrochester.org, click on GIVE to enroll. Be an eGiver and join the electronic age!

Please Remember

Remember our homebound members this Easter 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.



Mrs. Joyce Aris
500 East University #314
Rochester, MI 48307

Mr. David Beerer [wife Donna]
1301 Hathaway Rising
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Mrs. Ruth Burns
2549 Stoodleigh Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

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

Mr Tom & Mrs. Jesse Case
3151 E. Walton Blvd. Room 207
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

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

Mrs. Sally Crawford
790 Letica Dr. Apt. 309
Rochester, MI 48307

Mrs. Mame Crosslin
5298 Vincent Trail
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Mrs. Kay Cummings
Sanctuary at Bellbrook; 873 W. Avon, #317
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Mrs. Etta Feltes
200 Widsor Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Mrs. Winnie Hanlon c/o Kathy Angeli
2118 Beaufait
Grosse Pte. Woods, MI 48236

Mrs. Joyce Heller
Sanctuary at Bellbrook; 873 W. Avon #134B
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

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

Mr. Bud Hohn
45969 North Point Boulevard
Utica, MI 48315

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

Mr. Pete and Mrs. Betty Kondis
1505 Ford Ct.
Rochester, MI 48307

Mrs. Grace Langdon
c/o Linda Willet 817 Marquette Rd.
Bay City, MI 48706

Mrs. Phyllis Lenz
4860 East Main #M38
Meza, AZ 85205

Mrs. Diane McElreath
American House 2251 W. Auburn Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Mrs. Virginia Miller
197 Vreeland Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Dr. & Mrs. Fred Pradko
6931 N. Central Park
Shelby Twp, MI 48317-6357

Mrs. Wilma Ralph
Bay City Comfort Care, 4130 Shrestha Dr.
Bay City, MI 48706

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

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

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

Mrs. Loraine Struble
597 Dakota Ct.
Rochester, MI 48307

Mrs. Joan Swanson
5785 Patterson
Troy, MI 48085

Mrs. Lavonne Upton
1708 Bedford Square Dr. Apt. 101
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Mrs. Thelma Welbaum
1401 N. Rochester Rd. #125
Rochester, MI 48307



Join Us on Facebook

Along with the church's website and the Connector, please add the St. Paul's UMC Facebook page to your social media. You'll find the latest updates there and additional live-stream events as they become available. Our page is open to anyone to like!

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 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.

**Due to current Covid-19 Pandemic and state and federal guidelines
All Worship Services & Programs Canceled
All church activities and worship services are canceled until further notice.**

St. Paul's will continue to monitor the situation and will plan accordingly.

Please watch for announcements via the Connector and Facebook.

The church office will be closed.

Phones will be answered 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Prayer for a Pandemic

This prayer written by an anonymous member of the Interfaith Hospitality Network in Cincinnati.

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have not risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving
their health or making the rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools close
Remember those who have not options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no place to go.

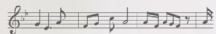
May we who are losing the margin on our money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our
arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be
the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

AMEN

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Lenten Concert Series

Fridays at Noon live-streaming on Harmony in the Hills Facebook page

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|----------|---------------------------|
| March 20 | Sam Wright, vocals |
| March 27 | Nicholas Schmelter, organ |
| April 3 | Scott Hyslop, organ |

Holy Week

We are currently planning on live-streaming Holy Week services on Facebook.
Whenever possible, the audio of those services will be available on the Sermon page of our website.

Palm Sunday April 5
9 a.m. Worship on Facebook

Holy Thursday April 9
7 p.m. Worship on Facebook

Good Friday April 10
12:30 p.m. Worship on Facebook

Easter Sunday April 12
9 a.m. Easter Worship on Facebook