

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

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But there's also this, it's not too late—GOD's personal message!—'Come back to me and really mean it! Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins!'

Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to GOD, your God. And here's why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot, this most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe.

Joel 2:12-13, The Message

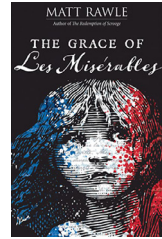
What are you giving up?

"What are you giving up?" As we enter this Lenten season, it's one of the questions that we ask one another. Fasting, however, is not simply about giving something up. The Lenten season is a time for us to reconnect with God. For some, it may mean giving something up so that when we feel the need for what we are fasting, we turn to God who is the source of all things. For others of us, it might mean taking more time to serve others so that we might see the face of Jesus in the eyes of those in need. For still others, it might mean beginning a study so that we might grow in our understanding of God.

As we enter into this Lenten season, there are plenty of opportunities at St. Paul's for us to offer our hearts and lives anew. Whether it is fasting, praying, studying, worshiping, or sharing sacred music with one another, I hope that you will be blessed with a holy Lent that brings you closer to God and to your neighbor in Jesus Christ. After all, God is always waiting for us, longing for us, and loving us.

Blessings,

Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor



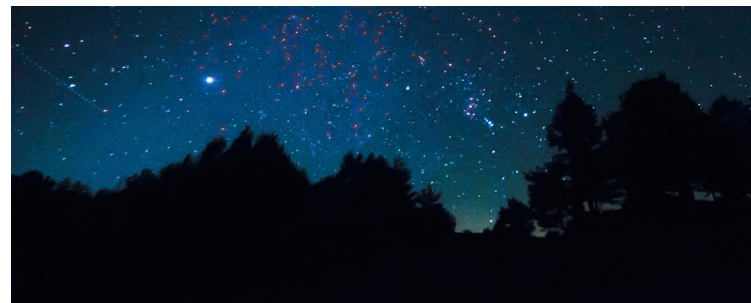
Lenten Study The Grace of Les Misérables Tuesday, February 21 - March 28 6 p.m. in the Parlor

Join Rev. Dulworth for a six-week Lenten study based on Victor Hugo's epic story, **Les Misérables**. Using Matt Rawle's book, **The Grace of Les Misérables**, we'll dive into six themes of Hugo's great work - grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope - as they are seen in the lives of various characters in the story. We'll listen for what God might have to share with us about these themes in this season as we journey with Jesus to the cross and the joy of resurrection. Study guides can be ordered on Amazon or Cokesbury websites. To register, email Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org.



Ash Wednesday Worship Wednesday, February 22 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

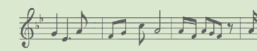
Begin Lent with this youth-led special service with music, prayers, an inspiring message, Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.



Night of 1,000 Blessings Sunday, February 26; 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Join us as we enter the Lenten season seeking to bless people within our community and the world. We'll prepare and send out over 1,000 blessings in one night to give witness to God's great love and presence through missions, acts of love and service, and a variety of other projects. We will meet in Hickey Hall, break into groups to do various projects and gather at 6:30 p.m. for a soup supper. Invite your friends, families, and neighbors as there will be opportunities for people of all ages to participate as we pray, serve, break bread together over a light meal, and begin a holy Lent.

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Lenten Concert Series Fridays at Noon in the Sanctuary

No admission charge for the concerts.

March 3 Jean Randall, harpsichord
Director of Music, St. Paul's UMC

March 10 Jantz Black, organ & piano
Director of Music at Orchard UMC

March 17 Julie Berra, piano & organ
Dir. of Music at St. Peter & Paul in Detroit

March 24 Cecilia Kowara, organ
University of Michigan student

March 31 Ann Lemke, oboe
Amanda Sabelhaus, piano



Guardians of Harmony in Concert

**Sunday, March 12
4 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Join us for an afternoon concert featuring Rochester's Guardians of Harmony barber shop chorus. The program, **O Give Me a Home**, will include some crowd pleasing favorites along with other familiar songs exploring the theme of Home performed acapella with rich barbershop harmonies. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door or March 5 & 12 at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

Play Pray Paint Women's Art Retreat

March 10 - 12; Port Huron Retreat Center

A time to pray, reflect and paint with a sense of play, curiosity, and joy, this women's retreat will be facilitated by Rev. Cora Glass and Rev. Dr. April Gutierrez. **Register NOW!** Email Pastor April at AGutierrez@stpaulsrochester.org. Cost is \$250 per person which includes room, meals, and all art supplies. **Scholarships available if needed.**



Samaritan Counseling Center Open House Sunday, March 12 following worship in Room 124

Samaritan Counseling Center (SCC) is opening a new location at St. Paul's. Rev. Latha Ravi will be providing counseling, including art therapy, to individuals and families. Please join us in welcoming SCC at an Open House in Room 124 after worship on March 12.



The Samaritan Counseling Center provides professional therapeutic counseling and educational services to all God's people seeking wholeness through emotional and spiritual growth. If you are in need of counseling or would like to make a donation contact SCC directly at 248-474-4701 or sccmich.org.



Dr. Randall Retiring

Director of Music and Organist, Dr. William Jean Randall, is retiring effective July 30, 2023, after over 20 years of ministry at St. Paul's. Since 2003, Dr. Randall has grown the music program that has become known in our community for excellence in music, as well as providing spiritually inspirational worship experiences each

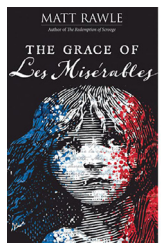
week. With his vision, Harmony in the Hills concert series draws people from miles around, presenting world-class musicians, sharing God's great gift of music.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) will meet to outline plans to celebrate Jean's ministry this summer as well as to establish our process for recruiting, interviewing, and auditioning the best candidate to serve among us. St. Paul's is committed to honoring God through the excellence of our music program. Please thank Dr. Randall for his ministry at St. Paul's. Let us offer him our best wishes as he begins this new journey together with his wife, Ellen.



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.

Join us for our Lenten study/Sanctuary Sermon Series:



The Grace of Les Misérables

During this six week class, we'll dive into the themes of grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope, as they are seen in the lives of various characters in the story. The book is optional. Our discussions will be based on an Amplify Media video shown in class. Please contact the leaders for further information.

Women's LIFE Friday

Fridays, February 24 - March 31

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor or on Zoom

Leaders: Nancy Fidler & Marilyn Kress

Contact Nancy at 248-933-1981 or nnfidler@gmail.com.

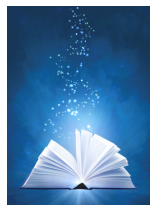
Women's LIFE Monday Night

Mondays, March 6 - April 10

7 - 9 p.m.; Hybrid: Room 128-129 or Zoom

Leader: Rebecca Lawson

Contact Rebecca at 248-568-6382 or rjlawson3912@gmail.com.



Seeker's Study

Mondays, February 27 - April 3

1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Parlor and on Zoom

Everyone is welcome to join our Lent study *Witness*

at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine. Experience Holy

Friday from the perspective of those who watched the

crucifixion of Jesus. All who were present had different roles to play.

Each evangelist presents a distinctive picture of the death of Jesus.

In this study we will "watch them watch" and seek to come away

transformed. Books can be ordered from your favorite bookseller.

Contact Rev. Judy May at JMay@stpaulsrochester.org.



Join a new book club! ALL are Welcome!

United Women in Faith Book Club

Thursday, March 23; 6:30 - 8 p.m. in Room 132

Join us for a discussion of *Fire Keeper's Daughter* by

Angeline Bouley. Pastor April is leading a NEW book club,

each month discussing a book from the UWF reading

program. For more information or to sign up, email Pastor April at

AGutierrez@stpaulsrochester.org.

United Methodist Men

Saturday, March 4

8 a.m. in Hickey Hall

All men are welcome

to join us for breakfast

and brotherhood. No

RSVP necessary. Invite

a guest! Contact Dave deSteiger at

248- 376-0416 for more information.

Join us!



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, March 16

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we discuss *Lessons in*

Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. New

members welcome! Questions? Call

Linda Burnard at 248-736-1893.



J.O.Y.

Just Older Youth

Tuesday, March 21

12 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Join us for a SINGSPIRATION! Do you

have a favorite hymn? Is it one we

haven't sung in worship for a while?

After a brown bag lunch and dessert

we will take your requests with our

very own Susan Clark Joul on piano.

Everyone 60 and above is a "just older

youth." Join the JOY choir, won't you?

* Childcare available by reservation - To reserve childcare, use the HUGS reservation signup at signupgenius.com/go/70a0849aaaa22a13-hugs at least 3 business days prior to class.



HUGS

For mothers & grandmothers of all ages
Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m. Room 132

Mar 1 Crucial Conversations - How Much is Too Much/Not Enough

We've all seen the articles discussing the importance of kids' extracurricular activities. We will discuss engaging kids without overtaxing our schedules.

Wednesday LUNCH BUNCH 11:30-12:30

Bring an ingredient to include in a salad and stay for lunch. Bring your little guys in with us as we linger over conversation and lunch.

Mar 8 March Madness

Combine your love of basketball and our goal of changing our world view to a Word view with a bracket of Biblical passages guiding future studies.

Mar 15 Lenten Prayer Service 10 a.m.

Join the UWF to prepare our hearts and minds for Lent. See info at right.

Mar 22 Crucial Conversations Redux

Here's your chance to let us know what's on your mind.

Mar 29 No HUGS

See the calendar at stpaulsrochester.org for more detailed information.

HUGS observes the Rochester Community Schools calendar. When schools are closed, HUGS will not meet.

* Childcare is available by reservation.

HUGS Monthly Mission

Provide birthday party kits for Neighborhood House Food Pantry.

Bring cake mix, frosting, candles, sprinkles, fun plates, can of Sprite (light cake mixes) or cola (chocolate cake mix) & disposable 9x12" pan.

United Women in Faith

We Believe Love in Action Can Change the World

March Circle Meetings

- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, March 8 at 1 p.m. in the Library.
- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, March 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Growing Seeds of Faith - Rev. Dulworth. Donate seed packets.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, March 9 at 7 p.m. in Rickard Chapel. Program by Rev. Dulworth.

Executive Board Meeting: Thursday, April 20; 9 a.m. in Parlor/Zoom

Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, I will listen to you.
Jeremiah 29:12

Hosted by the United Women in Faith

Lenten Prayer Service

Wednesday, March 15; 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Please join us for a time of peaceful prayer and reflection. Rev. Judy May will bless us with a special message of hope during this Lenten season.

Please submit your individual prayer requests so that together we can praise God and lift up our concerns to Jesus. Email your requests to Amy Lundquist at

calund2@yahoo.com by March 8. **Come and be refreshed.**



Save the Date!

That Takes the Cake Sale

Sunday, April 2

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Narthex

Homemade coffee cakes will be for sale.

Proceeds support UWF Missions locally and around the world. Drop off coffee cakes

Saturday, April 1; 12 - 2 p.m. in the Narthex.

Call Jane Chamberlain at 586-323-2537 to

sign up as a baker.

Prayer Shawl & Quilt Ministries

Tuesday, March 14 in Room 132

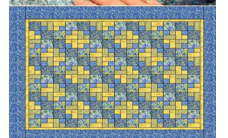
Prayer Shawls

Quilt & Handmade Treasures

1 - 2:30 p.m.

2:30 - 4 p.m.

Join us in knitting, crocheting or quilting prayer shawls, quilts and handmade treasures. We supply the yarn and supplies and will teach those who wish to learn. **All are welcome!**





Mission Challenge 2023
Raise \$25,000 for Structural Improvements to Henri Dennis School, Monrovia, Liberia
 Mission Council decided to focus our 2023 Mission Project fundraising efforts on supporting Henri Dennis School structural improvements. St. Paul's has been a partner with Henri Dennis School in Monrovia, Liberia for many years, helping to build the new school building, purchasing books and school supplies and providing scholarships for students. Many updates are needed to the campus including **improvements to the library, science laboratory and computer laboratory.** The computer lab presently does not have computers - students only learn computer theory in school. Computers are needed, but with that, air conditioning is required so that the computers are not destroyed.



Our goal is to raise \$25,000, which is consistent with previous mission project goals. **We ask for your support.** Please note **MC2023** when making your donation. Donations can be made online through the Give tab at stpaulsrochester.org or by check sent to St. Paul's UMC, 620 Romeo Street, Rochester, MI 48307.

Henri Dennis Scholarships

Mission Challenge 2023 is separate from the scholarships St. Paul's provides for Henri Dennis students. The scholarship program will continue. In 2022-2023 school year, St. Paul's sponsored 44 children through the scholarship program.



Warm Coats for Baldwin

In the past 10 years, the generous congregation of St. Paul's has donated approximately 1800 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 through March 5. Contact Roxanne Cleveland at 248-371-0382 with questions. **Thank you for helping us make a difference for our friends at Baldwin Center.**

Sunday Adult Studies Sundays at 11 a.m.

Faith & Friends Spiritual Growth Study; Room 132 Throughout March, join this warm, inviting group with diverse views on life and theology for the Lenten study of **The Grace of Les Misérables.** Contact Peter Marsh at 586-713-5392.

Family Life Active Couples and Singles, 50 & older; Rickard Chapel Over 50? Looking for a caring Christian fellowship with a good sense of humor? Learn and share with discussions and presentations on a wide variety of Christian issues and topics. Contact Cyndee Andrews at csa4646@aol.com or 248-370-0970.

- Mar 5** Believe - Tom Davenport
- Mar 12** Missions - John Kelly
- Mar 19** Children & Youth Ministry - Amy Heitman & Jodi Stuermer
- Mar 26** TBD - Larry Heflin

Looking Ahead **Palm Sunday** **April 2 at 10 a.m.**



Join us for worship and our traditional palm parade and visit Jackie, the donkey. We will have Sunday school for children K-5th grade and child care will be available for Pre-K and younger.

For children 5th grade and younger **Easter Egg Hunt** **Sunday, April 2 after worship**

Stay after 10 a.m. worship and hunt for candy filled eggs! We will have separate outdoor areas for different age groups. Dress for the weather because we will hunt rain or shine.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9
9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall
11 a.m. in Sanctuary

Children will worship with their families on Easter. There will be children's activities available during worship as we will not have Sunday school. Child care will still be available for Pre-K and younger.



Middle School Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders and their friends
Sundays 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall
Mar 5 Winter Bonfire
Mar 12 Surprise
Mar 19 YouLead
Mar 26 No youth group
 Spring Break

High School Youth Group

All 9th - 12th graders and friends **Sundays, 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall**
Mar 5 Winter Bonfire
Mar 12 Surprise
Mar 19 YouLead
Mar 26 No youth group, Spring Break

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!
Dinner \$5



Third Thursday Dinner Out

Thursday, March 16
6:30 p.m. at Golden Eagle
1447 N. Rochester Rd., Rochester Hills
 All High School youth are welcome for a FREE dinner out. Bring your friends and a big appetite.

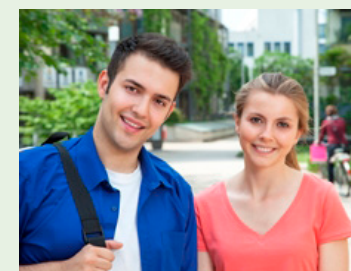
Parent Gathering

Sunday, March 19; 5 p.m. in the Parlor
 Drop your child at youth group or confirmation and join us! We'll connect with others, worship, enjoy a dinner with families. Contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org for more information.

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.

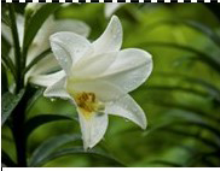
NEW! The application process for the St. Paul's Scholarship is now **exclusively online!** Paper applications will not be accepted. **Scan the QR code to access the online application form.**



St. Paul's United Women in Faith Scholarship

St. Paul's UWF 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.

Application Deadline is April 15 Applications available at stpaulsrochester.org.



If you wish to order a lily for Easter Sunday, April 9, fill out this form and send it with your check for \$15 each to:
 St. Paul's UMC, 620 Romeo St. Rochester, MI 48307
 Attention: Lilies
 The deadline to order is March 27.

Sleeved flowers may be: (please CHECK ONE)

_____ picked up after the 11a.m. Easter Morning Service on April 9;
 _____ or may be given to a person who is homebound

_____ Phone: _____
 Given by (PRINT)

In Loving Memory of _____

or In Honor of _____

_____ will pick up my plant.
 Name on tag

Holy Communion

March 5

10 a.m. at both 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, March 12

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



Upcoming Baptisms

May 14

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.



St. Paul's Preschool Registration for Fall 2023

Young Preschool: T & Th from 9 a.m. to noon
 Preschool: M, W, F from 9 a.m. to noon
 Pre-K: M - F from 9 a.m. to noon
 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. See our website at stpaulsrochester.org/preschool/.

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

Traditional • 10 a.m. in Sanctuary

5	John 8:1-11	When Grace and Justice Collide	Rev. Kress
12	John 9:1-12	Daring to Dream	Rev. Dulworth
19	John 15:12-17	The Greatest Love	Rev. Dulworth
26	Matthew 27:15-23	Building the Barricade	Rev. Dulworth

The Open Door Service • 10 a.m. in Hickey Hall

5	Psalms 121	A Place of Mystery & Unknown	Rev. Dr. Gutierrez
12	Exodus 17:1-7	A Place of Isolation & Connection	Rev. Kress
19	Psalms 23	A Place of Disruption	Rev. Dr. Gutierrez
26	Exekiel 37:1-14	A Place of Resilience	Rev. May

Sermon Series March

Looking Ahead... April

- 1st UMM Breakfast
Support for Caregivers
- 2nd Palm Sunday
That Takes the Cake Sale
Easter Egg Hunt
- 6th Holy Thursday Worship 7 p.m.
- 7th Church Office Closed
Good Friday Worship 12 p.m.
Tenebrae Service 7:30 p.m.
- 9th Easter Sunday
7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
9:30 a.m. Open Door
11 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 10th Church Office Closed
- 18th JOY - Just Older Youth
- 19th Early Bird Men's Study
- 20th Spark Book Group
UWF Book Club