

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

September 2023

Welcome
Dr. Seung Hee Cho

Page 3

Open Door Concert
Sari Brown

Page 3

Workshop
Poverty
A Conversation
that Matters

Page 3



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

September 2023

'For surely I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord, 'plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.'
Jeremiah 29:11, NRSV

What a beautiful summer we've had together with celebrations, transitions, a VBS program that was out of this world, and a new strategic plan and vision that are set to propel us into the next several years! As September rolls around, our fall season at St. Paul's is filled with plenty of excitement as well. On Sunday, September 3, we will welcome Dr. Seung Hee Cho as our incoming Director of Music Ministries and Organist during our traditional service at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

If you're away for the holiday, then grab a friend and join us the following Sunday, September 10, as we share in our Fall Kick-off Celebration, **Where You Belong**. From 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., the north lawn will be filled with food, music, inflatables, and fun. No matter which service you come to that day, there are plenty of opportunities to catch the Spirit at St. Paul's as we begin our September series sharing more about how we might create a place **Where You Belong**.



Sunday Schedule

- Beginning September 3**
Open Door Service
9:30 a.m. · Hickey Hall
- Traditional Service**
11 a.m. · Sanctuary
- Children's Sunday School**
during both services
- Adult Sunday School**
Faith & Friends 9:30 a.m.
Family Life 9:45 a.m.
Study of Romans 10 a.m.
- Coffee Hour**
10 - 11 a.m. · Parlor
- Beginning September 10**
Youth Group & Confirmation
5 - 7 p.m. · Hickey Hall
- Parent Group**
5 - 7 p.m. · Parlor

Don't forget that our **new worship times continue** each Sunday morning with our **Open Door modern service 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in Hickey Hall** and our **traditional service at 11 a.m. - noon in the Sanctuary**. Children's Sunday school and childcare will be offered during both worship times beginning September 10. Come for coffee hour in between services for a great opportunity to fellowship.

Many thanks to our adult Sunday school and our music ministries for adapting their classes and rehearsal times so that we might offer different worship experiences at different times for more options in our area. No matter which service you attend in-person or online, our clergy will be sharing the same messages as we continue to lead into the future. These adaptations also give our entire team more time to develop more leaders to grow our adult discipleship program.

This is a wonderful time to be at St. Paul's and I know that God is doing great things among us! We hope you'll join us each week as we grow in our discipleship through worship. Also, take a moment to read further into this edition of The Evangel to discover a way for you to feed yourself spiritually through small group study as well as to find a way to feed others through a mission, service, or leadership opportunity. And don't forget to invite someone to join you here at St. Paul's, where you belong!

Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor



Where You Belong Fall '23 Kick-off Sunday, September 10 10:15 a.m. - 1 p.m. on North Lawn

To kick off fall we will take over the north lawn of St. Paul's, from the Hickey Hall entrance to the Garden of Hope, for an outdoor celebration with food, music, bounce houses, lots of fun (of course) and a few other surprises.

Join us for this very exciting celebration. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in Hickey Hall.



Music Ministry

Music is the heart of St. Paul's. Our music groups are all very welcoming small groups. New members are welcome without audition!

St. Paul's Choir

**Wednesdays, starts September 6
7:30 - 9 p.m. in the Choir Room**

Sings for the 11 a.m. Sanctuary worship service September through June and performs major works with orchestra periodically.

Open Door Band

Plays 9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

The Open Door band, open to all ages, leads worship for the Open Door service Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall.

Wesley Ringers

**Thursdays, starts September 21
7:30 - 8:45 p.m. in Bell Room**

This handbell choir plays the third Sunday of the month, September through May. Members must read music. Directed by Al Fisk.

Welcome Dr. Seung Hee Cho

St. Paul's is thrilled to welcome Dr. Seung Hee Cho to our staff as our Director of Music Ministries and Organist. Dr. Cho is an avid concert organist, chamber musician, and veteran choral and orchestral music conductor. She holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Organ Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music and additional post-doctorate studies in choral and orchestral conducting.



With a keen eye for adapting her approach to many traditional and modern selections, she has performed at numerous venues and conducted for various organizations and music festivals including the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (NY).

A true native of liturgical music, Dr. Cho has spent over 30 years as the Director of Music & Organist at several churches in Seoul, Korea, New York, Philadelphia, Michigan, and Washington D.C. Deeply committed to her art and her faith, Dr. Cho is passionate about creating music transcending the secular to bring those around her to a higher connection with God and people. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her loving family, watching Korean-American television, and unwinding in gardens and other natural settings.

Dr. Cho will be joining our team on August 21. Her first Sunday in worship with us will be September 3.

Open Door Concert Sari Brown Sunday, September 10 4:30 p.m. Sanctuary

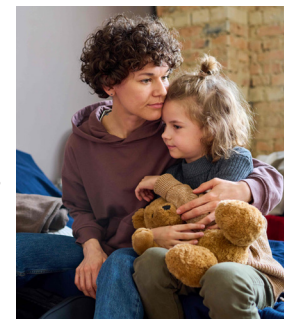
Join us for a late summer concert of meditative, enlivening music by Sari Brown, a singer/songwriter and minister who will provide an emotive and meditative vocal program focused on wholeness and healing. Admission is free.



Poverty: A Conversation that Matters

**Saturday, September 30
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

What does it mean to live in poverty? How does it affect physical and mental health? What does poverty look like in the greater Rochester area? St. Paul's Adult Ministries, Health Ministries and Stephen Ministries will host a program on poverty with three guest speakers including Michael Dreon, the Executive Director of Rochester Area Neighborhood House. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a simulation and ask questions during the program. Visit SPENT at playspent.org to understand what it is like to experience poverty.

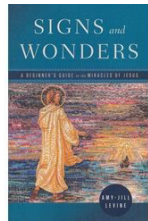


This is a free program that will be open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For additional information please contact Rachel Henry at rachel@stpaulsrochester.org.

Classes & Groups



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.



Signs and Wonders

Join us as author, A.J. Levine, takes a fresh look at several of Jesus' miracles as she examines the role of caregivers, how we attend to nature, the importance of women's bodies, taking death seriously and more. Discussions will center on Amplify videos shown in class. Books (\$13) are optional.

Women's LIFE Friday

Fridays, September 8 - October 13
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor or on Zoom
 Join us at 9:15 a.m. for social time
 Led by Nancy Fidler & Jean Meyers

To order a book or find out more, please contact Nancy Fidler at nfidler@gmail.com or 248-933-1981.

Women's LIFE Monday Night

Mondays, September 11 - October 16
7 - 9 p.m.; Hybrid: Room 128-129 or Zoom

To order a book or find out more, please contact Rebecca Lawson at rjlawson3912@gmail.com or 248-568-6382.



Seeker's Study

Mondays, beginning September 11
1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Parlor and on Zoom

Everyone is invited to be part of St. Paul's Seekers Study as we begin reading and discussing **Truth Speaks to Power...The Countercultural Nature of Scripture.**

Author Walter Brueggemann will help us look at the interface between biblical faith and public policy and the way in which the Bible is concerned with questions of social justice and its mandate to social action. Books can be ordered from Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Contact Rev. Judy May at 586-242-1555 with questions.



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, September 19; 12 p.m. in Hickey Hall
 Everyone 65+ is "just older youth", so please join us for a program or an in-house service project every third Tuesday of the month. The fellowship is great and new friends soon become family.

Bring a brown bag lunch; dessert plus Jake's fabulous coffee will be provided. This month we'll share "What I did during summer break"...the old elementary school assignment!

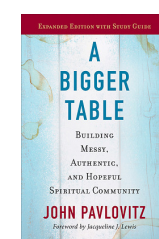
United Methodism 101

Tuesdays, September 19 & 26
7 - 8:30 p.m. in Room 131

How do you answer when you're asked why you are a United Methodist? Do you ever wonder who or what a United Methodist is, believes, or wants to be? Whether you have been a part of this denomination forever and need a refresher course, or are relatively new to us and need more information, United Methodism 101 is for you! Rev. Judy May looks at how we have become part of a church that has grown from one man's experience to a movement that covers the world. Contact the office at 248-651-9361 or office@stpaulsrochester.org to register.

A Bigger Table

Tuesdays, September 19 - October 24
6 - 7 p.m. in the Parlor



Join Pastor Elbert this fall for a six-week study as we wrestle with how to create a culture of belonging while inspiring people to live and love like Jesus. Together we'll read and discuss John Pavlovitz'

book, **A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community.** Please contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org or 248-651-9361 to register.

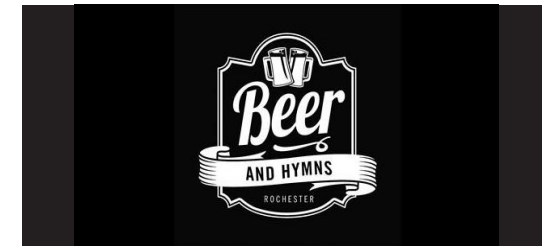


SPARK Book Group

Thursday, September 21
1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we read *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams* by Stacy Shiff. We welcome new members! Contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

Classes & Groups



Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, September 12 at 7 p.m.
Gus O'Connor's Public House
324 S. Main St. Rochester

Sing along with the worship band. The Open Door will provide appetizers, Participants buy their own drinks.



Learning to Walk with God

Thursdays through September 14
9 - 10 a.m. in Rochester Park

Walk with us as we listen and discuss Christian songs. Once a month we venture out to another park. Recently, we visited Holland Ponds in Shelby Township and saw an Eagle's nest. To keep it fun we often play a Bible game or participate in prayer practices. If you would like to join us, please contact Judy Smouter at smouterj@comcast.net.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Saturday, October 7
8 a.m. in the Parlor

Due to other events on September 9, our first meeting will be October 7. **All men are invited** to join us for a delicious breakfast, brotherhood and our guest presenter Rev. Elbert with devotion from Rev. Rick. No RSVP necessary. Contact Dave deSteiger at 248-376-0416.



United Women in Faith



UWF Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 12
6 p.m. Circle Meetings
6:30 p.m. Light Dinner in Parlor
7 p.m. - Business Meeting in Parlor

Join us for our Annual Meeting to experience the love and support of a great group of Christian women. To find a group that meets your needs, contact Karen Reynolds at kjr975@gmail.com. All Circles will hold their September meetings and then we'll have fellowship and a light supper provided by the Executive Board. A short business meeting follows during which the membership will vote on the 2024 budget and slate of officers. New members will be inducted. Get information on upcoming fundraisers and events.



UWF Book Club

Thursday, September 21; 6:30 - 8 p.m. in Room 132
 Join us for a discussion of *Together, the Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World* by Vivek Murthy, MD. For more information contact Pastor April at AGutierrez@stpaulsrochester.org.

Sunday Adult Studies Sunday mornings

Faith & Friends Spiritual Growth - All are welcome
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in Room 132 Join this warm, inviting group with diverse views on life and theology. Contact Peter Marsh at 586-713-5392.

Family Life Active Couples and Singles, 50 & older
9:45 - 10:45 a.m. in Rickard Chapel Over 50? Looking for a caring Christian fellowship with a good sense of humor? Contact Cyndee Andrews at csa4646@aol.com or 248-370-0970.

Study of Book of Romans Beginning October 1

10 - 11 a.m. in Room 128/129 Gerry Bryce will be leading an in-depth 32-week study of Romans, the Apostle Paul's letter written to the Christians living in Rome. Scan the QR code for a detailed description of the class. Contact Gerry Bryce at 248-520-1771 if you are interested.





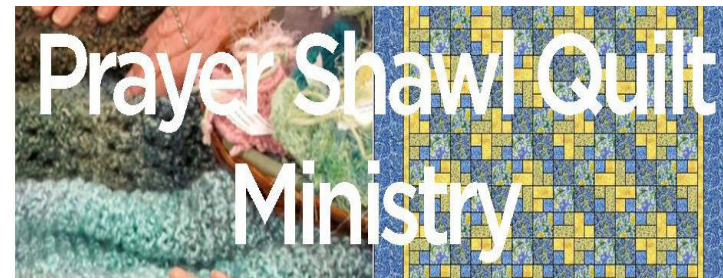
Habitat for Humanity Work Day
Saturday, September 9; 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
150 Osmun, Pontiac, MI 48342
 Volunteers are needed for St. Paul's Habitat Work Day. Scan the QR code to register. If this is your first time volunteering with Habitat Oakland you will be directed to create a volunteer profile. Every volunteer must have a volunteer profile and must be over the age of 17. Remember to include any skills you may have that will help us place you at the appropriate tasks. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY** however it helps to let us know. Please contact Mike Becker at 248-770-1906 with questions.



Mission Challenge 2023 Update
Double the impact of your gift by donating before August 27 to take advantage of matching funds.
 As of July 31, we are about \$6500 short of our goal. **Can you help us reach our goal?** Please note **MC2023** when making your donation. Donations can be made online through the Give tab at stpaulsrochester.org (use QR code below) or by check sent to St. Paul's UMC, 620 Romeo Street, Rochester, MI 48307.



Many updates are needed to the Henri Dennis School 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. **Thank you for your support.**



2nd Tuesday of the Month
Prayer Shawl **Quilts**
September 12 **September 12**
1 - 2:30 p.m. **2:30 - 4 p.m.**
Room 132 **Room 132**
 Welcome to all who want to learn to quilt, knit or crochet. We have supplies to share. Ideas for new projects are welcome for our mission quilts, prayer shawls or Handmade Treasures to be sold at church, Kris Kringle, and other outlets. **Join us!** Text Donna Heflin at 248-505-6413 with questions.



Parent Group Gathering
Sundays, beginning September 10 5 p.m. in the Parlor
 Parents of youth are invited to come as you are, drop your child at youth group and join us for our first fall session on Sunday, September 10. We'll connect with others, worship and enjoy a nice meal. Just come or contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org for more information. Programming will be available for elementary age students. **Scan the QR code to reserve childcare.** Reservations required for children 5th grade and younger.



Looking Ahead
Third Grade Bibles
Sunday, October 1
9:30 & 11 a.m. services
 Third graders will receive their Bibles on October 1 during worship. If you would like your child to receive a bible, please contact Amy Heitman at Amy@stpaulsrochester.org.

High School Youth Group
 All 9th - 12th graders & their friends
Sundays beginning September 10 5 - 7 p.m. in the Lounge
 Are you looking for a way to unwind and have fun after a crazy week? Are you yearning to make an impact in your community? Our High School Youth Group is the place for you and your friends. We provide a relaxed atmosphere for teens to be themselves, explore their faith, help out others and have fun. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. unless we are off campus (\$5/meal or \$110/year). We meet in Hickey Hall. **Good times are guaranteed!**



Middle School Youth Group
 All 6th - 8th graders & their friends
Sundays beginning September 10 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall
 Are you looking for a fun and relaxing way to start your week? Our Middle School Youth Group is lively and fun! We provide a safe place where you can be yourself. Our activities are geared to strengthen our relationships with God and each other, help the community and have fun. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. unless we are off campus (\$5/meal, \$110/year). **Friends are welcome anytime.**

September 10 Youth Group Kick Off!
September 17 YouLead
September 24 What's Your Take?

September 10 Youth Group Kick Off!
September 17 YouLead
 Parent Meeting for Confirmation
September 24 Creative Prayer



Third Thursday Dinner Out
Thursday, September 21 6:30 p.m. at Red Knapp's 304 S. Main St. Rochester
 All High School youth are welcome for a FREE dinner out. Bring friends and a big appetite.

Prayers for our Youth
 Please pray for all the students (and their families) as their fall semester begins. They need our support and prayers for peace and strength with school demands, family schedules, mental health issues, navigating social media and shutting out negativity and division in our hectic world. May they feel comfort in God's presence knowing they have a team praying for them.

Welcome Back to Sunday School
Beginning September 10
 Children in kindergarten through 5th grade will be dismissed from worship to go to their Sunday school classes. **Please walk your child to their classroom and sign them in.** Our hallway greeter can help direct you to your child's classroom.



Childcare for our preschool and younger children will be held in Room 127. Our childcare staff will be ready to greet them 15 minutes prior to the start of worship.

Save the Date
High School Worktrip Meeting
Sunday, October 1; 5 p.m. in Hickey Hall
 We will discuss the summer 2024 worktrip. Join us to find out when and where we will be traveling next year. Parents/guardians and students attend together.

Confirmation Parent Meeting
September 17; 5 - 6 p.m. in Rickard Chapel
 We invite 7th grader to participate in this year's Confirmation experience led by Rev. Dr. Gutierrez. During our studies we will work together to learn more about the United Methodist Church, take field trips to learn other religious practices, have retreats, learn more about the Bible and become closer to God and others. **Students are encouraged to attend Youth Group which starts September 10.** Classes run September 24 through Confirmation on May 19. Cost for the class is \$90. Registration forms can be found on the Confirmation page at stpaulsrochester.org. **Register by September 20** by returning forms to church or emailing them to Debbie@stpaulsrochester.org. **Any student 7th grade and older is welcome to participate.**





Holy Communion

Sunday, September 3; 9:30 & 11 a.m. 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, September 17

10:30 - 11 a.m. in the Narthex

Stop by between services to have your blood pressure checked.



Upcoming Baptism Dates

Sunday, September 17 & November 26

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 more information, contact the office at 248-651-9361.



Save your Stuff!

NEW! Drop off:

Monday, Oct 9 from 5 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct 10 from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sale Days: October 13 & 14

Volunteers always needed!

Email drlutey2@wowway.com.



Unique opportunity for littlest learners

Enrolling Young Preschool

(must be 3 by 12/31)

**Young Preschool: T, Th
9 a.m. to noon**

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.

Applications available online

stpaulsrochester.org/preschool/

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

The Open Door Service
9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Traditional Service
11 a.m. in Sanctuary

3	Matthew 11:28	Rest	Rev. May
10	Fall Kick-off Celebration Children, Youth & Adult Programming, Youth Group Resume		
	1 Corinthians 12:14-26	A Place You Belong	Rev. Dulworth
17	Baptisms		
	John 10:11-18	A Bigger Vision of the Flock	Rev. Dulworth
24	Romans 12: 9-21	Finding Unity in a Diverse World	Rev. Dulworth

SERMON SERIES September

Looking Ahead to October

- 1st World Communion Sunday
Third Grade Bibles
Discover St. Paul's
- 7th Men's Breakfast
Support for Caregivers
Blessing of the Animals
- 13-14th Rummage Sale
- 15th Wedding Renewal Sunday
S'more Church
- 17th JOY
- 19th SPARK Book Group
- 22nd Generosity Sunday
- 29th Rev. Dr. Jack Harnish -Guest
Trick or Eat