

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

November 2023

HARMONY
IN THE HILLS

Ivan Zenaty

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED VIOLINIST

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St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

November 2023

"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Isaiah 2:4c



Way to Be

While November is usually a month of gratitude and Thanksgiving, I find my heart breaking in this season of our world. Perhaps as you watched the horrors of violence and war this past month between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, you join me in longing to see Isaiah's vision realized in the world around us, especially among Palestinians and Israelis. As I reflect upon Isaiah's words, it strikes me that he's not simply calling for peace, but a sense of justice as the weapons of warfare become the very tools that have the capacity to bring about a harvest to feed the nations with enough. In Isaiah's dreams, peace and justice go hand in hand for the people of God.

BE JUST
KIND
HUMBLE

The prophet Micah asked, "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." Beginning Sunday, October 29, we'll begin a four-week series on justice, kindness, and humility. Together, we'll explore how faithful Christians engage in the conversations and ministries of justice and peace.

On Sunday, November 5, we'll begin the month with a celebration of our saints. On Sunday, November 26, our Advent journey begins a new series, **An Unlikely Advent** as we explore Rachel Billups' book that explores some of the "extraordinary people of the Christmas story." What might they have to teach us about faithful living on our way to Christmas?

I look forward to seeing you soon as together, we continue to "Choose Church."

Blessings,

Elbert Dulworth

Senior Pastor

Guest Preacher October 29

Believing, Behaving, Belonging

In Micah 6:8, we hear "[The Lord] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"



On October 29, we're starting a new four-week sermon series with the Rev. Dr. Jack Harnish, pastor emeritus of Birmingham First, preaching **Believing, Behaving, Belonging** and sharing with us an introduction to his new book, **Thirty Days with E. Stanley Jones: Global**

Preacher, Social Justice Prophet.

Find information on **Pastor Elbert's study using this book** about one of the greatest evangelists in United Methodism on page 4. All are invited to join this study which begins November 7.

"And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds..."

Hebrews 10:24

I choose
church

Children and youth music programs are starting up in time for Christmas. We're creating spaces for people to share coffee and conversations. Missions are impacting the lives of children, the hungry, homeless persons, and so many more. It's not too late for you to join us in determining just how much we'll do together in the coming year. If you have not yet turned in an estimate of giving for 2024, please fill it out online at stpaulsrochester.org (scan QR code) or stop by the office and fill one out. Join us in choosing church so that others might experience and choose Jesus at work in our midst together.





REASA Rochester Ecumenical Alliance for Social Action

Adult Faith Formation & Community Building

People of Faith

Sunday, November 12

3 p.m. Workshop in Rickard Chapel

6 p.m. Potluck in Rickard Chapel

St. Paul's hosts the finale of the 2023 People of Faith series. Travel the road of racial awareness and uproot racism while building a community of hope and healing. Join others from Rochester Area Churches. Register at <https://forms.office.com/r/z2yh9GVTXA>. **ALL are welcome** - even if you did not attend other sessions.

Sign Up for Paperless Statements

Our new Breeze software allows accounting to send your quarterly statements to the profile email address. As the cost of postage continues to rise, accounting would like to offer you the option of receiving your statement(s) electronically instead of by mail. Please email accounting at: finance@stpaulsrochester.org to put your name on the electronic statement list.



Altar Flowers Sponsorship for 2024

Through your generous support, the sponsorship of altar flowers at St. Paul's has remained a loving tradition and a beautiful part of our worship experience. The office is in the process of accepting sponsors for 2024. You may contact Linda Jeffries at linda@stpaulsrochester.org or call the church office at 248-651-9361.



HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Concert for Violin & Piano

Ivan Zenaty & Stanislav Bogunia

Sunday, November 5; 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for a concert by internationally renowned violinist, Ivan Zenaty, accompanied by Stanislav Bogunia. They will perform selections by Dvorak, Smetana, Tchaikovsky, and Ravel.

Admission: Adults — \$25
Students (12 - college) — \$10
Children (5 to 11) — free
Not suitable for children under 5

Buy tickets by October 28 and SAVE 40%!

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets.

Use coupon code **STPAULS** for discount.



Handbell Choir Opening

Thursdays at 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. in Bell Room

Wesley Ringers have an opening to fill ASAP. If you are interested in joining us and have a music background, please contact Al Fisk at 248-252-4486.

Highlights this year include playing with the Rochester Community Concert Band on December 12 and participating in a handbell festival in Clarkston in April.



Classes & Groups

New Dinner Groups Forming Soon

Dine with Nine Info Session

Sunday, October 29; 10:15 a.m. in Room 128-129

Dine with Nine is about good conversation and meaningful fellowship. Groups dine together throughout the year. You can host in your home, set up a potluck picnic, organize an outing to a local restaurant, or whatever works best for you. If interested, please email Beth Talbert at talbert.beth@gmail.com. If you aren't able to attend on October 29 but want to participate, please let us know.



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, November 16

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. We welcome new members! Contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.



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 Friday

Fridays, November 3 - December 1

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

Join us at 9:15 a.m. for social time

We will start the Advent study, *An Unlike Advent*, a little early. See description below. Books (\$14) optional. Contact Nancy Fidler at nnfidler@gmail.com or 248-933-1981.



UWF Book Club

Thursday, November 16

6:30 - 8 p.m. in Room 132

Join us for a discussion of *Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13* by Candace Simpson. For more information contact Pastor April at AGutierrez@stpaulsrochester.org.

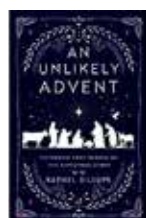


Thirty Days with E. Stanley Jones

Tuesdays, November 7 - 21; 6 p.m. in the Parlor

Join Pastor Elbert for a study of *Thirty Days with E. Stanley Jones: Global Preacher, Social Justice Prophet* by Rev. Dr. Jack Harnish, pastor emeritus of Birmingham First UMC. In his day, E. Stanley Jones (1884 - 1973) was described as the "greatest missionary since Saint Paul."

His clarion call to justice and loving community was shaped by his friendship with Mahatma Gandhi and influenced the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Email Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org to register.



Advent Study An Unlike Advent

Tuesdays, November 28 - December 19

6 p.m. in the Parlor

This Advent, our sermon series will be accompanied by a study in several of our small groups throughout the church. *An Unlike Advent*, by Rachel Billups, explores the stories of some of the extraordinary people of the Christmas story. We'll reflect on people like Zechariah, Elizabeth, Herod, the magi, and even the shepherds. Some of their stories might be a little bit more messy, but God still accomplishes great things through them or even in the face of the adversity that one of them brings. Join Pastor Elbert or one of our many others who are sharing this study in this holy season as we journey towards Christmas.

J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, November 21

12 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Everyone 60+ is "just older youth", so please join us for as we write notes to the members of St. Paul's who are on our "Staying Connected" list. The fellowship is great and new friends soon become family. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee, water and dessert will be provided.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 4
8 a.m. in the Parlor

All men are invited to join us for a delicious breakfast, brotherhood and interesting program. No RSVP necessary. Contact Dave deSteiger at 248-376-0416.



United Women in Faith

We Believe Love in Action Can Change the World
November Circle Meetings

- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, November 2 at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. Planning for 2024.
- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, November 8 at 1 p.m. in the Library
- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, November 9 at 9 a.m. in the Parlor. God's Story: Remembering the Love - Make Thanksgiving cards.

Executive Board Meetings: Thursday, November 16; 9:30 a.m. in Parlor
Spend-Down Meeting is Thursday, December 14; 7 p.m. in Parlor.



Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, November 7 at 7 p.m.
Gus O'Connor's Public House
324 S. Main Street, Rochester
Sing along with the worship band. The Open Door will provide appetizers. Participants buy their own drinks.

United Women in Faith

That Takes the Cake Sale Sunday, November 19

9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the Narthex
Homemade coffee cakes and other treats will be for sale with proceeds supporting UWF missions locally and around the world. Drop off coffee cakes Saturday, November 18 between 12 - 2 p.m. in the Narthex. Please call Jane Chamberlain at 586-323-2537 to sign up as a baker. Items must be individually wrapped for sale.



HUGS. Humor, Understanding, Growth and Support

For mothers and grandmothers of all ages

Wednesdays at 9:30 - 11 a.m. in Room 132

Nov 1 Loving Literacy Librarian Cindy Taskin shares tips to foster a love of reading.

Nov 8 Prayer Practices Rev. Rick & Marilyn Kress share prayer/meditation practices to prepare for a wonderful holiday season!

Nov 15 Jesse Tree Advent devotions Short Bible stories and ornaments for each day of Advent. SUPER EASY!

Stay for **Wednesday LUNCH BUNCH** 11:30a.m. - 12:45 p.m.. Bring one ingredient to include in a potluck salad - there is a sign-up for ingredients.

Nov 22 NO HUGS Enjoy your Thanksgiving with your families!

Nov 29 Holiday Traditions Share holiday traditions and bring a favorite holiday treat.

See stpaulsrochester.org/calendar/ for more detailed information. **Scan QR code to reserve childcare.**

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



HUGS Mission Moment

We are continuing to collect plastic jars of peanut & sun butter and jelly for the Rochester Area Neighborhood House Food Pantry. Bring them to HUGS or drop them off with Sue (4657 Fawn Hill Court, Rochester) or Steph (163 Sugar Pine Road, Rochester Hills).

'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ...The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25



St. Paul's to Offer Shelter

December 31 - January 7

St. Paul's has joined the **South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless** overnight shelter program beginning this winter. From the evening of December 31 through January 7, St. Paul's will host 30-40 guests overnight. Guests will arrive

by bus/van at 6 p.m., be fed dinner and provided a warm and safe place to spend the night. Guests will depart Monday through Friday mornings at approximately 6 a.m. but will spend the daytime hours with us on Saturday and Sunday, January 6 and 7.

Volunteers will be needed for:

- transportation
- welcome and registration
- food preparation and serving
- evening and overnight hosting
- daytime hosting on the weekend



Volunteers will receive training for their positions before the event.

Gerry Bryce will offer a Mission Moment in November to introduce the project and will be available every Sunday for volunteer sign-up and to answer questions. Please contact Gerry with any questions at 248-520-1771.

Christmas Basket Mission Project 2023

Again this year, St. Paul's has committed to help between 100 - 125 families with our partners at Rochester Area Neighborhood House. Our program has changed in the last few years, and clients report they prefer the newer system. Therefore, we will again provide Hollywood Market gift certificates to Neighborhood House clients as a way of making their Christmas a little brighter.



There will be ways to get involved in this wonderful project so look for details in the Connector.

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 Online** tab.

St. Paul's Logo Gear

Order through November 5

Show your St. Paul's pride with our new merchandise. We have a variety of items for children and adults including t-shirts, hoodies, golf shirts, hats, and drinkware. Purchase items through a dedicated website. Merchandise samples will be displayed at church in the Parlor. These items make great Christmas gifts!



Scan the QR code to order. Place orders before November 5.

Merchandise will be delivered to church when ready. A percentage of your purchase will benefit the youth worktrip 2024 to Mission, SD. Thank you to Gemini Sales and Kim and Mark Merola for heading up this project.



Cass Community Social Services Rochester Holiday Breakfast Sunday, December 3 at 11 a.m.

Royal Park Hotel, Rochester
Cass Community Social Services will host its 17th Rochester Holiday Breakfast at the Royal Park Hotel. Hear about the good work of Cass from Executive Director Rev. Faith Fowler while supporting this important Detroit-based non-profit. Tickets are \$50 per adult and \$20 per child (12 and under). For tickets, contact Lola Rushin at 313-883-2277, ext. 225, or email lrushin@casscommunity.org for more information. Tickets for the Family Life Class are being coordinated by Camille Doerr.



Halloween Candy Leftovers

We need your leftover Halloween candy! We will send it off to our college students so they can feel our love from afar. Drop candy in the church office or in Room 206.

College Address Reminder

St. Paul's wants to keep in touch with your college student throughout the year and send them a care package in early December.

Parents: If you would like your college student to receive a care package, please email his/her address to Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org by **November 5**. Thanks!



All Together in Church

On **Sunday, November 26**, all children are invited to be in worship with their families. We are giving our dedicated and loving volunteers who serve each week as Sunday school teachers the day off for the holiday weekend. Please consider having your student write a note to thank Mrs. Haley and Mrs. Mack for all that they do. Childcare for Pre-K and younger will continue to be available in Room 127 during worship.

MS Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. Hickey Hall

- Nov 5 No Youth Group - RCS Break
- Nov 12 Operation Christmas Child
Bring \$10 if possible.
- Nov 19 YouLead, Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 26 No Youth Group - Thanksgiving break



HS Youth Group All 9th - 12th graders & their friends

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. in the Lounge

- Nov 5 No Youth Group - RCS Break
- Nov 12 Operation Christmas Child
Bring \$10 if possible.
- Nov 19 YouLead, Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 26 No Youth Group - Thanksgiving break



High School Worktrip Registrations Due Now

Our summer worktrip is a life changing experience for both youth and adult volunteers. This trip gives our teenagers an opportunity to invest in something bigger than themselves, explore a new area and culture, and make a difference in a struggling community. We are going to the **Rosebud Indian Reservation in Mission, South Dakota June 15 - 22**. This has been a favorite destination among past students. Sign Up today!



Club 45

Sunday, November 5; 12:15 - 2 p.m. Community Garden

Calling all 4th & 5th graders to join Miss Amy to help put the Community Garden to bed. We will meet at the garden, north of Woodward in Rochester behind the ballfields. Bring a sack lunch and dress for the weather. Please email Amy Heitman at Amy@stpaulsrochester.org to RSVP for the fun. Club 45 is a mission group that meets seasonally to serve others in our community.

Third Thursday Dinner Out

Thursday, November 16; 6:30 p.m.

Paul's on Main, 630 N. Main Street, RH

All High School youth are welcome for a FREE dinner out. Bring friends and a big appetite.





NEW!

Children & Youth Music Program

Begins Sunday, October 22

6-12th Grade: 4:15 - 5 p.m. Room 106 w/ Dr. Cho

K-5th Grade: 5:15 - 6 p.m. Room 122 w/ Betsy Marsh

PreK: 5:15 - 5:35 p.m. in Room 107 w/ Missy Castle

All children and youth are invited to participate in this new program, which will be showcased on All Music Sunday, December 17. Rehearsal dates are October 22, November 12 & 19, December 3 & 10.

Parents can join the Parent Group from 5 - 7 p.m. in the Parlor while children are in rehearsal. **ALL children are invited to stay** with Missy Castle from 6 - 6:30 p.m. in Room 122 following rehearsal. At 6:30 p.m. the Parent Group, along with their children, eat dinner together in the Parlor.



Holy Communion

November 5 at 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, November 12

10:30 - 11 a.m. & 12 - 12:30 p.m. in the Narthex

Stop by to have your blood pressure checked.



Upcoming Baptism Sunday, November 26

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



St. Paul's
PRESCHOOL
stpaulsrochester.org/preschool

Young 3's class: T, Th
3's class: M, W, F
4's class: M - F
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. **Learn more at our website:** stpaulsrochester.org/index.php/preschool/.



Annual Church Conference

Thursday, November 9

7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty, chair.

All St. Paul's members and friends are invited to attend.

Looking Forward - December

- 1st Advent Concert at noon
- 2nd UMM Breakfast
- Support for Caregivers
- 3rd Rochester Community Christmas Concert
- 5th Christmas and Candlelight
- 7th SPARK Book Group luncheon
- 8th Advent Concert at noon
- 9th A Merry Little Christmas Party
- 10th Cookie Sale
- 11th Blood Drive
- 15th Advent Concert at noon
- 17th All Music Sunday
- 19th JOY Just Older Youth
- 21st Blue Christmas Service
- 24th Christmas Eve Worship
- Open Door Service - 9:30 a.m.
- Family Service - 4 p.m.
- Candlelight Service - 7 p.m.
- Candlelight Service - 10 p.m.
- 25th Merry Christmas! Office Closed
- 31st New Year's Eve Office Closed

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

The Open Door Service • Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall 11 a.m. in Sanctuary

Way to Be Micah 6:8

5 Communion • All Saints Sunday

Matthew 5:1-12

A Saintly Way of Life

Rev. Dulworth

12 Ephesians 4:32

Practicing Kindness

Rev. May

19 Isaiah 6:1-5

Humility Isn't Just for the Meek

Rev. Dulworth

26 Celebrating 1st Sunday in Advent • Baptisms

Luke 1:5-25

An Unlikely Advent: the FOMO Factor

Rev. Dulworth

SERMON SERIES November