

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

January 2024



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Pastor's Message

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Isaiah 60:1 NRSV

A Warm Welcome

As a new year begins and we find ourselves in the season of Epiphany, we are opening wide the doors of St. Paul's to give witness to God's love and light through a partnership with South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless. December 31 through January 7, our spiritual home will be the physical home for several people who would otherwise be outside during one of the coldest times of the year. I hope you'll join me in donating your time, gifts, and your prayers to support a warm welcome to St. Paul's during this week.

Mid-January, we're beginning a new sermon series for you to invite your friends to join us as we beat the winter blahs. For four weeks, beginning January 14, you won't want to miss out on **St. Paul's at the Movies**, as we begin a series on recent films and faith. I encourage you to go to a local theater sometime before each Sunday to view the movie that is named in the sermon title and join us for worship as we discuss the faith moments that we've experienced on film. The last week of the series, we plan to show the fourth movie at St. Paul's. Watch the Connector emails for details as they become available.

If the cold and snow keeps you inside, then choose to stay inside with some great friends and family as we share in this month of shining Christ's light!

New Year's Blessings,

Elbert Dulworth

Senior Pastor



United Women in Faith Sunday

Sunday, January 7; 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The United Women in Faith will have their installation of officers for 2024 during the 11 a.m. worship service and will recognize individuals for their dedication and service to St. Paul's.

Adult Ministry Studies & Support

St. Paul's offers a wide range of small groups for new and returning members and guests of St. Paul's. Our groups help us integrate our faith into our daily lives as we journey through the different seasons of adulthood. We welcome all and look forward to joining our faith journey with yours. For more information, please contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org.

St. Paul's at the Movies

Sunday, January 14 - February 4

Join us for **St. Paul's at the Movies**, as we begin a series on recent films and faith. Go to a local theater ahead of time to view the movie that is named in the sermon title, and join us for worship as we discuss the faith moments that we've experienced on film.

January 14 The Color Purple - John 4:1-30

January 21 Migration - Ruth 1:11-19

January 28 The Boys in the Boat - Nehemiah 3

February 4 Chevalier - Exodus 3:1-15

The last week of the series, we plan to show the fourth movie at St. Paul's. More details on the movie showing will be announced later in January in The Connector.



Spiritual Retreats

Would you like to participate in a retreat?

St. Paul's is looking for folks who are creative, well-organized, good at execution and enjoy developing programs, who would be interested in helping us develop retreats. If this describes you, please contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org as planning is underway to schedule and develop retreats for Spring and Fall 2024.



HARMONY IN THE HILLS

Alvin Waddles Trio

**Sunday, January 21
3 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

The incomparable Alvin Waddles Trio will start the 2024 Harmony Hills Concert Series off with a blend of jazz and blues. The native Detroit artist and friends have a loyal following of music lovers from the metropolitan area and beyond. The concert is an event you won't want to miss. Tickets: \$20 per adult, \$10 per student.



Parent Gathering Group A Conversation about Trauma

**Sunday, January 28
5 - 7 p.m. in Rickard Chapel**

What is trauma? What are the different types of trauma?

How do we talk about trauma to our youth and children? Rev. Latha Ravi, the counselor at our satellite Samaritan Counseling Center, will provide valuable information and answer any questions you may have. All are welcome to join us for this very important topic. For additional information or questions please contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org.



Taizé Service

Tuesday, January 23; 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

As part of a week of Christian Unity, St. Paul's is hosting a Taizé service (pronounced: tay-zay) on January 23. Taizé is an ecumenical worship known for its simple, yet rich and meditative character as a musical centering prayer. Prayer, silence and promoting unity among Christians are at the heart of the Taizé experience. Taizé, France is an important site of Christian pilgrimage where tens of thousands of young pilgrims flock to the small village to share in the community's way of life.

During the week of January 18 - 25, local churches including St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, University Presbyterian Church, and St. Phillip's Episcopal Church will each host a short worship service each evening with light refreshments following.

Sunday Adult Studies Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

Faith & Friends Spiritual Growth Study; Room 132 Join this warm, inviting group with diverse views on life and theology for the next thought-provoking study. Contact Peter Marsh at 586-713-5392 to learn about our winter study - or just stop in on Sunday mornings.

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. **Class on January 14, 21 & 28 with various speakers.**

Family Life Class Social Event

Crazy Card Soup & Salad Party

Friday, January 19; 6 - 10 p.m. in the Parlor Something fun for January - Join us for cards and dinner. Contact Barb Roller at 248-342-9519 or Lefty12@comcast.net to sign up.

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.

Women's LIFE Friday Creed: Exploring the Apostles' Creed Fridays, January 5 - February 9

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

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

Join us as author, Adam Hamilton, helps us better understand this historic statement of foundational Christian faith, a creed that many of us have said every Sunday for most of our lives. Discussions will center on Amplify videos shown in class. Books (\$14) are optional. To order a book or find out more, please contact Nancy Fidler at nnfidler@gmail.com or 248-933-1981.



Seeker's Study

Mondays, January 8 - February 12
1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Parlor and Zoom

Please join us for our new study of *Questions Jesus Asked* by Magray de Vega. The author explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves. Join a great, welcoming discussion group in the new year. Books can be ordered from your favorite bookseller. Contact Rev. Judy May at 586-242-1555 with questions.



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, January 16; 12 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Sixty plus? Just Older Youth is the place to be! We meet at noon with a brown bag lunch; coffee and dessert provided. We will be celebrating the new year and looking forward as we plan the programs for the months ahead. **Please join us!**



Yoga & Chair Yoga

Tuesdays, 2 p.m. in the Narthex

Join us for Chair Yoga for moderate exercise or traditional yoga on the mat. Each session is 45 minutes and costs \$10. Contact Judy May at 586-242-1555 or the office at 248-651-9361 for information.



UWF Book Club

Thursday, January 11
6:30 p.m. in Room 132

Join us for a discussion of *Our Strangely Warmed Hearts: Coming Out into God's Call* by Bishop Karen P. Oliveto.



Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, January 16

7 p.m. at Gus O'Connor's

324 S. Main Street, Rochester

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



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, January 18

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

We welcome new members! Start the new year with us as we discuss *The River We Remember* by William Kent Kruger. If you have questions, call Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

Next Meeting February 3

United Methodist Men's Breakfast



Due to St. Paul's hosting the shelter program in January, United Methodist Men will not meet until February 3.



HUGS

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

Jan 10 Mugs & HUGS Off Campus
9:30 - 11 a.m. Green Cup Café

896 S Rochester Rd. Rochester Hills
Meet for casual conversation and well-deserved rest and relaxation. You are welcome whether this is the first time or you are a seasoned veteran!

Jan 17 Beat the Winter Blues

You survived the chaos of the holiday season, but the winter is still young. We'll discuss ways to keep morale strong in your homes as kids (and parents) develop cabin fever.

Jan 24 If I Knew Then What I Know Now

Veteran moms Jodi Stuermer, Jen Archey & Susan Sonye share their wisdom, love and tips to let us know we're not alone!

Jan 31 Outreach Project

We'll create s'more type goody bags for our preschool families to let them know there's always room for "s'more" friendly faces at HUGS! **LUNCH BUNCH** Stay for soup & salad and extend the fellowship.

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



Scan QR code to reserve
childcare.

HUGS Monthly Mission

Warming Hearts with Soup

Bring cream of mushroom, tomato, vegetable, beef varieties and beef stock each week in January and we'll take them to the Neighborhood House Food Pantry at the end of the month.

United Women in Faith

We Believe Love in Action Can Change the World

January Circle Meetings

- **Patience Circle** - No January meeting.
- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, January 10 at 1 p.m. in the Library.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, January 11 at 7 p.m. on Zoom with presentation by Rev. Judy May.



Executive Board Meetings: Thursday, February 15; 9:30 a.m. in Parlor.



United Women in Faith Donates \$56,238

The United Women in Faith Executive Board met on December 14 for their annual Spend-Down meeting. They had **\$30,000** to donate to charities benefiting women and children on top of \$26,238 already donated during the year.

In 2023, the UWF donated a total of **\$56,238** to missions!

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

UWF Reading Program

The United Women in Faith has a reading program that recommends books in 5 areas of faith development. Those who read in all 5 areas receive a Certificate of Recognition. For a complete list of qualifying books please search uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program.



Below is a list of books on the 2024 Book List that we have available in the St. Paul's library. We also have *Response* Magazines available.

- *Prey Tell* by Tiffany Bluhm
- *Beating Guns* by Shane Claiborne
- *The 1619 Project* by Nikole Hannah-Jones
- *30 Days with E. Stanley Jones* by John Harnish
- *Blessed Youth* by Sarah Griffith Lund
- *The Loneliness Epidemic* by Susan Mettes
- *I am a Girl from Africa* by Elizabeth Nyamayaro
- *We Go On* by John Onwuchekwa
- *The Book of Rosy* by Rosayra Pablo Cruz
- *The Cure for Sorrow* by Jan Richardson
- *Beautiful Country* by Qian Julin Wang
- *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead

Check them out!

Contact Pat Klos in the church library for more information.

Turn in your book log to Diane Donoghue by September 1.

Mission Corner

Recap of Activity

Mission Highlights from 2023:

As chair of the Missions Council, it is my pleasure to share this list of accomplishments at St. Paul's in 2023:

- **We accomplished our MC 2023 goal** of raising \$25,000 for the **Henri Dennis School** in Liberia to upgrade the Library, Computer Lab & Science Lab.
- We made quarterly cash donations from our Missions Designated Giving accounts totaling over \$32,000.
- We delivered over 3,200 pounds of food and personal care products to Rochester Area Neighborhood House.
- Thanks to **Night of 1,000 Blessings** we donated:
 - 150 Birthday kits to RANH,
 - 300 Cookies to First Responders,
 - 100 Placemats to Meals on Wheels,
 - 98 Hygiene Kits to Cass.
- We donated \$8,700 for Henri Dennis School Scholarships.
- We donated 87 Blankets to Cass thanks to Blanket Palooza.
- We delivered 252 winter coats to Baldwin Center.
- We donated \$40,000 to Samaritan Counseling Center.
- We donated \$40,000 to Readers to Leaders.
- We donated \$15,000 to St. Paul's Preschool.
- We are donating \$3,000 toward the purchase of a van for Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY.
- We held several blood drives to collect over 165 units of life-saving blood products for the Red Cross.
- We grew, harvested, and donated over 232 pounds of fresh vegetables for the Food Pantry.

This partial list does not include the many contributions made by:

- United Women in Faith
- HUGS Mothers Group
- Quilt Ministry
- St. Paul's Youth Group
- Hand Made Treasures Group
- Children's Ministry
- FISH
- Sunday School Classes

St. Paul's truly does "Walk the Talk." It is my honor to serve as Mission Chair and I thank you all for your support and prayers.

John Kelly
Mission Chair

Christmas Basket Project

St. Paul's distributed Hollywood Market gift certificates to ninety-seven families right here in the Rochester area. Each donation envelope contained a Christmas card created by our Sunday School kids and a letter of introduction about St. Paul's, in addition to the gift certificate. Your generosity and support made all this possible.



Warm Coats for Baldwin

In the past 12 years, the generous congregation of St. Paul's has donated approximately 2400 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 4 - March 3.** Contact Roxanne Cleveland at 248-371-0382 with questions. **Thank you for helping us make a difference in our local community.**

All Together in Church

Sunday, December 24 and December 31, all children are invited to be in worship with their families. We are giving our dedicated and loving childcare staff and volunteers who serve each Sunday time off to celebrate with their families. We will have activities available from our ushers and ambassadors but feel free to bring busy bags from home if you would like. **Sunday school and childcare resume January 14.**



MS Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends
Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. Hickey Hall; Dinner \$5

- Jan 7 No Youth Group
- Jan 14 Blanket Palooza
- Jan 21 YouLead, Winter Bonfire
- Jan 28 Ash Wednesday prep and sledding weather permitting (Dress Appropriately and bring a sled)



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

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. in the Lounge (meet in Hickey Hall) Dinner \$5

- Jan 7 No Youth Group
- Jan 14 Blanket Palooza
- Jan 21 YouLead, Winter Bonfire
- Jan 28 Ash Wednesday prep and sledding weather permitting (Dress Appropriately and bring a sled)

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!



Club 45

**Sunday, January 14
5 - 7 p.m. Outside Hickey Hall**

Join us for a night of sledding, a group dinner and tying blankets for our annual mission night of Blanket Palooza. Please meet Miss Amy outside Hickey Hall at 5 p.m. dressed for sledding. Bring an extra pair of shoes to have when we go inside for dinner and the mission project.

Third Thursday Dinner Out

Thursday, January 18
6:30 p.m. at Miguel's Cantina
870 South Rochester Rd. Rochester Hills

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



Parent Gathering

**Sunday, January 14
5 - 7 p.m. in the Parlor**

Parents are invited to drop your child at youth group or confirmation and join us! We'll connect with others, worship, enjoy a dinner with families and participate in Blanket Palooza. This is a family event, so younger children are welcome to stay and help with our mission project. Contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org for more information.



Blanket Palooza

Sunday, January 14; 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Join the MS and HS youth as we make fleece tie blankets for those in need. In the past 7 years, we have donated over 400 blankets to community shelters. 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.



St. Paul's Preschool Registration for Fall 2024

Mommy & Me for 2's: F 9:30 - 11 a.m.
 Young Preschool: T, Th 9 a.m. - noon
 Preschool: M, W, F 9 a.m. - noon
 Pre-K: M - F 9 a.m. - 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.

Classes fill up fast, so schedule a tour today!

Registration for St. Paul's members and returning families opens January 8.

Registration for NEW Families begins February 1.

Come see what we are all about!

Preschool Open House Thursday, January 25; 6 - 8 p.m.

Small Class Sizes • Nurturing Environment • Supports Growth of Every Child.

Applications available online at stpaulsrochester.org/preschool.



Holy Communion

January 7 at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

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.



Upcoming Baptism Dates

January 28 & April 14

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. Please contact the office at 248-651-9361 to schedule.



Save the Date

Made in Michigan

Sunday, February 4

12 - 1:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Celebrate all things Made in Michigan! Enjoy gathering for a potluck meal with other Michigan food favorites. Wear apparel from your favorite Michigan university, school, or business. We'll also feature music from Michigan artists. Sponsored by the Membership Committee.

Blood Pressure Clinic

Sunday, January 14

10:30 - 11 a.m. & 12 - 12:30 p.m.

Narthex

Stop by to have your blood pressure checked.



SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

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

7	Communion • United Women in Faith Sunday • 11 a.m. only	
	Mark 1:4-11 A New Beginning Rev. Dulworth	
14	John 4:1-30 St. Paul's in the Movies - The Color Purple Rev. Dulworth	
21	Ruth 1:11-19 St. Paul's in the Movies - Migration Rev. Kress	
28	Nehemiah 3 St. Paul's in the Movies - The Boys in the Boat Rev. Dulworth	

SERMON SERIES January

Looking Ahead... February

- 3rd UMM Breakfast
- Support for Caregivers Group
- 4th Made in Michigan
- 8th Coffee & Tools
- 11th HITH Concert
- Amir Eldan & Misha Namirovsky
- 12th Blood Drive
- 13th Prayer Shawl & Quilt Groups
- 14th Ash Wednesday Service
- 15th SPARK Book Group
- 20th J.O.Y. - Just Older Youth
- 21st Early Bird Men's Group
- 23rd Lenten Concert
- 25th Night of 1000 Blessings