

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

February 2024

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HARMONY IN THE HILLS

Amir Eldan and
Misha Namirovsky

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St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

February 2024

If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Mark 8:31-38

What R U Up 2?

This February, we're up to some fun, faith, and an infusion of love for our communities around St. Paul's. Invite a friend to join you for worship and fellowship on Sunday, February 4 for our **Made in Michigan** celebration as we enter this month.



Our Lenten journey begins as our youth lead us in our Ash Wednesday service on February 14 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary and continues each Sunday with our sermon series **What R U Up 2?** Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual growth and connections. This year, rather than "giving up" something, you're invited to join us as we consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he invites us to be up to in his name. What pursuits are we up to in our lives that call us to be our best selves as disciples of Christ and as the Church?

As we close out the month, you won't want to miss an opportunity to be up to a great deal of good by joining us for **Night of 1,000 Blessings** on Sunday, February 25 from 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall. Watch for more information in the Connector for opportunities to donate items for the 1000 blessings.

Lent is also a great opportunity for you to join in one of our Lenten study opportunities where we'll examine Jesus work on the cross with the help of Magrey deVega's book, *Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross*. I hope you're up to join us in all the good that we'll be up to sharing with one another this winter.

Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor

Parent Gathering Group

A Conversation about Trauma
Sunday, January 28
5 - 7 p.m. in Rickard Chapel

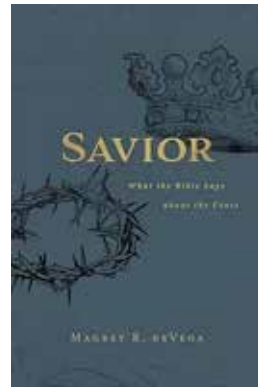
What is trauma? What are the different types of trauma and how do we talk about trauma to our youth and children? Rev. Latha Ravi, the counselor at our satellite Samaritan Counseling Center, will provide valuable information and answer any



questions you may have. **All are welcome** to join us for this very important topic. Contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org for additional information or questions.

Lenten Study

Tuesdays, February 20 - March 26
7 p.m. in Room 132 (Fisch Study Group)
7 p.m. on Zoom (Swisher Study Group)
Seeker's Study and Women's LIFE Friday class will also be doing this study.
(See information on page 4.)



Join one of our groups for our Lenten study of *Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross* by Magrey deVega. The cross is the central symbol of our Christian faith even as it leaves us with so many questions. The Bible uses many images to understand the meaning

of Jesus' death and resurrection, and deVega guides us through these images to achieve a richer understanding of the Christian faith. Together, we'll examine God's reconciling work for us in Jesus Christ at the cross. Through a variety of biblical images, we'll gather a deeper understanding of our faith and strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus in his great love for the world. Books can be purchased on Amazon.



Made in Michigan

Sunday, February 4

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Join us for a great time as we celebrate all things Made in Michigan!

- **Enjoy Michigan Food Favorites:**
 10:30 a.m.- Noon Brunch food
 Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch food
- **Michigan Trivia**
- **Wear Michigan Apparel** from your favorite Michigan university, school, or business.
- **Made in Michigan Make & Take Craft**
 Make an alcohol ink drop coaster with craft provided by the Paint Creek Center for the Arts.



PCA | PAINT CREEK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Sponsored by the Membership Committee.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, February 14

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.



HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Cello & Piano Concert

Amir Eldan and Misha Namirovsky

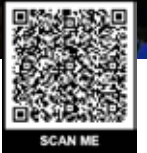
Sunday, February 11

3 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Harmony in the Hills Concert Series is delighted to present eminent cellist and University of Michigan Professor Amir Eldan and acclaimed pianist

Misha Namirovsky who will captivate lovers of classical music at this rare performance of world-renowned musicians.

Tickets: Adults \$15, Under 18 \$8



Lenten Concert Series

Fridays at Noon in the Sanctuary

Add something special to your Lenten Fridays by attending these 30-minute concerts. Free admission.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| February 23 | Dr. Seung Hee Cho, organ |
| March 1 | Angie Zhang, piano |
| March 8 | Christopher Harding, piano |
| March 15 | Amanda Ross, trumpet |

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.

Classes & Groups

Cancer Support Group

Tuesdays, January 30 – March 12
7 p.m. in Room 128-129

This non-denominational support group is open to the community for cancer survivors, both those going through treatment now or in the past, as well as for family members, friends and caregivers. We would love to have you join us for as many of these meetings as you can make during the session. Each meeting includes a speaker on various topics followed by sharing time. The support and growth experienced in these groups is invaluable and amazing. For more information, call the church office at 248-651-9361.



United Methodist Men

Saturday, February 3
8 a.m. in Hickey Hall

All men are welcome to join us for breakfast and brotherhood. No RSVP necessary. Invite a guest!



Join us! Contact Dave deSteiger at 248- 376-0416 for more information.

Prayer Shawl & Quilt Ministries

Tuesday, February 13 in Room 132

Prayer Shawls

1 - 2:30 p.m.

Quilt & Handmade Treasures

2:30 - 4 p.m.



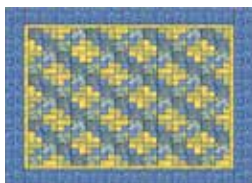
Join us in knitting or crocheting this new year. All are welcome and supplies are provided.

Help us make Prayer Quilts and Handmade

Treasures to sell. Bring your sewing machine and thread if possible or come to help on a new project. Supplies available.

All are welcome even if you wish to learn.

Please message Donna Heflin at 248-505-6413 with questions.



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, February 15
1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

We welcome new members! Start the new year with us as we discuss *All The Beauty In The World* by Patrick Bringley. If you have questions, call Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.



UWF Book Club

Thursday, February 15
6 - 7:30 p.m. Room 132

Join us for a discussion of *You Have a Voice* by Vera

Ahiyya. Contact Nancy Shannon at nancgs@aol.com with questions.



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, February 16 - March 22

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 we participate in the church Lenten study of *Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross* by Magrey deVega. See study information on page 2. Discussions will center on Amplify videos shown in class. Books are optional and can be purchased on Amazon. To find out more, please contact Nancy Fidler at 248-933-1981 or nnfidler@gmail.com.



Seeker's Study

Mondays, beginning February 19

1 - 2:30 p.m.

Parlor and Zoom

Please join us for our Lenten study. See study information on page 2. Contact Rev. Judy May at 586-242-1555 with questions.



HUGS

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

Feb 7 Mindfulness Carmelita Samuel helps us regain peace in the new semester.

Feb 14 Mardi Gras Fun Artist Amanda Sgarlata will lead us in some Mardi Gras inspired fun to start Lent.

Feb 21 Crucial Conversations
What's on your mind? Your role as a mom, parenting challenges, or school questions? Have a great idea for a new program or a HUGS presentation?

Feb 28 Let's Spill the Tea A fantastic morning of conversation and treats. Whether you're a regular attender or just want to check out what HUGS is all about, today is a perfect day to uplift each other.
LUNCH BUNCH Stay for soup & salad and extend the fellowship.

Feb 28 Girls Night Out 7 - 10 p.m. A great event to meet everyone in a casual, fun atmosphere! A craft cocktail/mocktail lesson at Michelle Grundhofer's: 1632 Newcastle Dr., Rochester Hills. Feel free to bring an appetizer or dessert. Check Facebook for updated details.

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 February 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
February Circle Meetings

- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, February 8 at 9:30 in the Parlor - Breaking Bread.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, February 8 at 7 p.m. in Rickard Chapel- On Our Journeys to and with Christ.
- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, February 14 at 1 p.m. in the Library.



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



Mission Pin Recipients

Recognized at 9:30 a.m.:
Amy Heitman and Bob Johnson



Recognized at 11 a.m.: Linda Burnard, Mary Carlson & Grant Renny

UWF Mission Pin Recipients

Each year, St. Paul's United Women in Faith recognize dedicated individuals for outstanding service. On Sunday, January 7, **Linda Burnard, Mary Carlson, Amy Heitman, Bob Johnson, Leesa Medaugh and Grant Renny** were recognized for their dedicated service in 2023 to St. Paul's and to the UWF mission work.

Handbell Choir Openings

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

The Wesley Ringers Handbell Choir has openings for **three ringers** who must be able to read music.

Wesley Ringers play monthly in the church as well as throughout the community at concerts and festivals. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings. Please contact Al Fisk at 248-252-4486 or any ringer.



I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. . . and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 12:2, 3c (NRSV)



NIGHT of 1,000 BLESSINGS

Sunday, February 25; 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Join us as we enter the Lenten season seeking to bless people within our communities 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. **This is a great mission opportunity for families!**



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.**



Children & Youth Music Program

Resumes Sunday, February 4

Youth Choir: 4:15 - 5 p.m. Choir Room

Children's Choir: 5:15 - 5:45 p.m. Choir Room

All children and youth are invited to participate in the music program which will be showcased on Palm Sunday, March 24 at the 11 a.m. service. **Rehearsal dates are February 4, February 25, March 3 and March 10.**



MS Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. Hickey Hall; Dinner \$5

Feb 4 AWP, YouLead

Feb 11 No Youth Group - Super Bowl

Feb 14 Youth Led Ash Wednesday Service
7 p.m., Sanctuary

Feb 18 No Youth Group - Winter Break

Feb 25 Night of 1000 Blessings

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

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

Feb 4 AWP, YouLead

Feb 11 No Youth Group - Super Bowl

Feb 14 Youth Led Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

Feb 18 No Youth Group - Winter Break

Feb 25 Night of 1000 Blessings

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!

Third Thursday Dinner Out

Thursday, February 15

6:30 p.m. at Lucky's Prime Time

1330 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills

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

Parent Gathering

Sundays, February 4 & 25

5 p.m. in the Parlor

Do you need a soft place to land that is faith-based and grace-filled? Drop your child at youth group or confirmation and join us! We'll connect with others, worship, enjoy a dinner with families and on February 25, participate in Night of 1,000 Blessings. Contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org for more information.

Rosebud Indian Reservation
Worktrip Fundraiser

Gourmet Pretzel Sale

Sunday, February 11

10 - 11 a.m. Hickey Hallway

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Narthex

Stop by Sunday morning for some delicious homemade chocolate covered pretzels. These will make great Valentine Day gifts or party favors for the Super Bowl.

Thank you for your support!



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 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.

Don't wait until the last minute! Start your application now!





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 qualified 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 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.



Blood Drive

Monday, February 19; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Hickey Hall
 The need for blood is great all year long. Schedule an appointment by calling Bill Molloy at 248-892-1705 or go to redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code 'stpaulunited'.

Holy Communion



February 4
9:30 a.m. Hickey Hall
& 11 a.m. 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.

Blood Pressure Clinic

Sunday, February 11
10:30 - 11 a.m. & 12 - 12:30 p.m.
Narthex

Stop by to have your blood pressure checked.



Upcoming Baptisms



January 28 & April 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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

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

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 4 | Communion | | |
| | Exodus 3:1-15 | St. Paul's in the Movies - Chevalier | Rev. Dulworth |
| 11 | Mark 9:2-9 | Life between Mountaintops | Rev. Dulworth |
| 18 | First Sunday in Lent | | |
| | Mark 1:9-15 | What R U Up 2? - Come Up | Rev. Dulworth |
| 25 | Second Sunday in Lent | | |
| | Mark 8:31-38 | What R U Up 2? - Take Up | Rev. Kress |

SERMON SERIES February

Looking Ahead... March

- 1st Lenten Concert at noon
- 2nd UMM Breakfast
- Support For Caregivers
- 6th UWF Lenten Prayer Service
- 8th Lenten Concert at noon
- 15th Lenten Concert at noon
- 18th Blood Drive
- 19th JOY - Just Older Youth Taize Service
- 21st Spark Book Group
- UWF Book Club
- 24th Palm Sunday - Egg Hunt
- That Takes the Cake Sale
- 28th Holy Thursday Service
- 29th Tenebrae Service
- 31st Easter 7:30, 9:30 & 11 a.m.