

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

April 2024



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

April 2024

Take a Look Around

There is nothing quite like the excitement of watching children run across the yard for an Easter Egg hunt! Yet, in a matter of seconds, it seems as if it is over sooner than it began. That can almost be the way that it is for us, too, following the joyful and hope-filled celebrations of Easter in the life of the Church.



Following the first Easter, however, hope didn't let down after the women discovered the empty tomb. Between Easter and the Ascension, the scriptures tell of multiple encounters of resurrection that kept filling the early disciples with a living hope that renewed them each time. More and more came to believe that Jesus lives as they shared the stories of their experiences with one another, beginning with the women on that first Easter morning.

As we step into this Easter season, join us as we keep our eyes open for, and continue to share the stories of resurrection that we're experiencing in our midst and in the world around us. Let's continue to fill our communities with the hope and life that we have experienced in Jesus Christ. Whether we're celebrating Holy Humor Sunday on April 7 during worship, celebrating Dr. Guitierrez' ministry among us on April 14, honoring our volunteers on April 21, gathering to hear more about the United Methodist Church's general conference, or joining in a post Easter study, there is plenty of new life for us to see and experience at St. Paul's. Just take a look around!

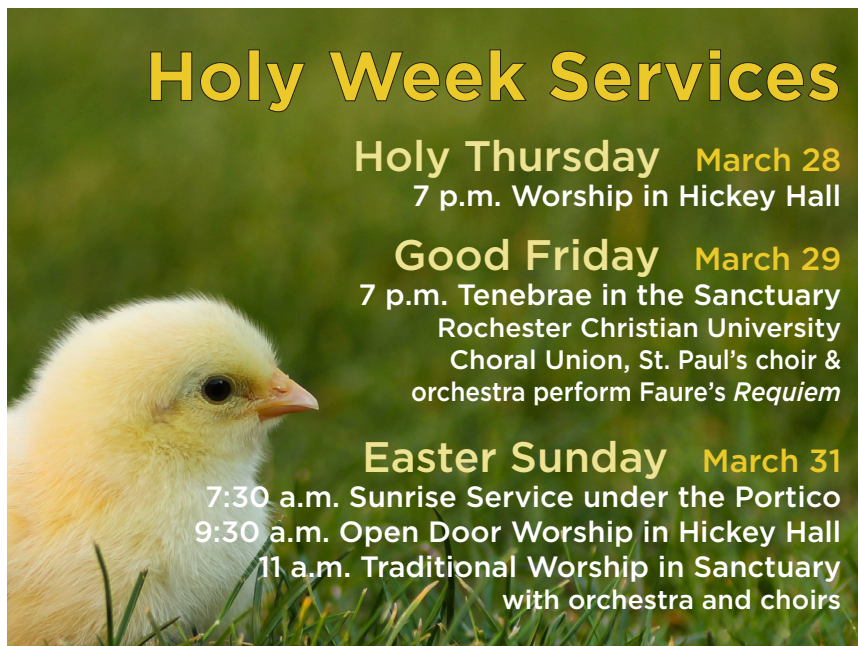
Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor

Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday March 28
7 p.m. Worship in Hickey Hall

Good Friday March 29
7 p.m. Tenebrae in the Sanctuary
Rochester Christian University
Choral Union, St. Paul's choir &
orchestra perform Faure's *Requiem*

Easter Sunday March 31
7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service under the Portico
9:30 a.m. Open Door Worship in Hickey Hall
11 a.m. Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
with orchestra and choirs



Holy Humor Sunday

Sunday April 7; 9:30 & 11 a.m. Services

Early Greek Christians celebrated "Bright Sunday" or "Holy Humor Sunday" on the Sunday following Easter. The joy of Easter's resurrection celebrations carried over into the days that followed Easter with feasts and laughter. Some have even called it "Laugh at the Devil Sunday" holding that the greatest joke that God could play on the Devil was the resurrection. Just when he thought sin, death, and the grave had won, God had the last word of resurrection, life, love, and joy. On April 7, prepare to have your funny bone tickled as we continue to celebrate the joy of Easter during our worship services with some laughter and humor. If you have a great church joke to share, please feel free to email it to Rev. Dulworth at EDulworth@stpaulsrochester.org by April 1. It may just be featured on Holy Humor Sunday.

General Conference April 23 - May 3

And Are We Yet Alive?

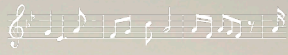
Sunday, April 21; 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church was postponed until April 23 - May 3, 2024.

In that time, there has been much conversation about the future of United Methodism in the United States and throughout our world as our Church and our world have changed in these years. **Join Rev. Dulworth on April 21 as he shares some thoughts about the General Conference as well as hopes for the future of United Methodism.** Continue the discussion over a shared dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall.



HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Amanda Blaikie

Sunday, April 14

4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for a delightful concert by Amanda Blaikie on flute accompanied by Dr. Seung Hee Cho and Bret Hoag. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for 18 and under.

Tenebrae Service

Good Friday, March 29; 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Observe Good Friday by attending this moving Tenebrae service featuring St. Paul's choir and orchestra with Rochester Christian University Choral Union performing Faure's *Requiem*.

Farewell for Rev. Dr. April Gutierrez

Sunday, April 14

10:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Please join Staff Parish Committee in a farewell celebration to thank Pastor April for her 3 years of service to St. Paul's and to wish her well in her new appointment as co-pastor at the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Portage, Michigan, south of Grand Rapids.



If you would like to contribute toward a gift for Pastor April and her family, please send a check to St. Paul's UMC and list her name on the envelope and on the memo line. You can also give electronically through the St. Paul's website, stpaulsrochester.org. The QR code at the left will direct you to our Give Online page where you can designate your gift for 'Love Gift'.



Volunteer Appreciation

Sunday, April 21 during coffee hour

9:30 - 11 a.m. in Hickey Hall &

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

We recognize and give a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who make St. Paul's a warm and welcoming place filled with God's love. We appreciate you and the difference you make! Join us for a special coffee hour hosted by the St. Paul's Staff in both Hickey Hall and the Narthex.



Social Media: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly

Tuesday, April 23; 7 - 9 p.m. in Hickey Hall

St. Paul's Adult Ministries, Health Ministries and Stephen Ministries will host a seminar on social media and the mental and physical impact of social media on people of all ages. Dangers and benefits will be discussed along with healthy strategies for social media use.

Featured speakers will be:

- **Adam Hamilton**, Clinical Director
Oakland Community Health Network
- **Sgt. Jonathan Elges**, Computer Crime Unit
Oakland County Sheriff Department
- **Christina Harvey**, MPH, Health Education Consultant, Oakland Schools
- **Andrea Zellner**, Learning Design Consultant, Oakland Schools

This is a free program that will be open to the public.



Classes & Groups

Sunday Adult Studies Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Faith & Friends Spiritual Growth Study; Room 132

April 7 begins a multi-week exploration of Revelation. Following Jesus crucifixion Roman rulers became increasingly hostile to Jesus' followers. While John was in exile, Jesus Christ spoke to John in a vision and gave him messages for each of the Seven Churches in Revelation. John Wesley said, "that while the beginning and end of the book of Revelation are rather evident, he had for years been utterly despairing of understanding its intermediate parts." Contact Gerry Bryce at gbryce@tlwllc.com or Peter Marsh at 586-713-5392 for more information.

Family Life Active Couples and Singles, 50 & older; Rickard Chapel Family Life Class is a welcoming and supportive group of those over 50 years. We meet weekly for Christian learning and sharing with the occasional dining out, picnics and interesting local destinations. In January we met for a potluck dinner and crazy cards and had a great time! Contact Cyndee Andrews at csa4646@aol.com or 248-370-0970.

United Methodist Men

Saturday, April 6

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.



UWF Book Club

Thursday, April 18

6 - 7:30 p.m. Room 132

Join us for a discussion of *Crying in H Mart: A Memoir* by Michelle Zauner. Please contact Nancy Shannon at nancgs@aol.com with questions.



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, April 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. **Please join us!**



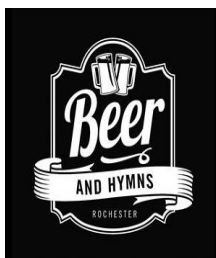
Looking Ahead - Email by April 29

Learning to Walk with God

Thursdays, May 2 - August 29

9 - 10 a.m. Rochester Municipal Park and other locations

Connect with your physical and spiritual fitness and well-being. Walk with us for physical exercise, socializing, and a spiritual component that gives everyone thoughts to ponder about how to better follow in Jesus' footsteps. Discuss and reflect upon the meaning of inspiring prose and poetry written by Christian authors and how scripture compliments the message. All ability levels are welcome. When walking in Rochester, park near the Police Station. **Please email Judy Smouter at smouterj@comcast.net by April 29** if you plan to participate.



Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, April 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. **Join us!**



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, April 18

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we discuss *The Storied Life of A J Frikey* by Gabrielle Zevin. Contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511 with questions. **We welcome new members!**



HUGS

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

Apr 3 Wild Card Wednesday We're heading into the homestretch for the school year! Let's recharge with great conversation and goodies.

Apr 10 Crafts & Conversation Enjoy each other's company while doing a craft.

Apr 17 Mindfulness
Carmelita Samuel will help us regain our peace as we head into the craziness of the last leg of the school year.

Apr 24 If I Knew Then What I Know Now... Veteran moms Jen Archey, Michelle Grundhofer, Jodi Stuermer & Susan Sonye share wisdom and love. Come with questions for our panel.

LUNCH BUNCH 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
For our working moms, if you can sneak away, please join us for lunch today! Feel free to bring your preschoolers.

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.



Scan QR code to reserve childcare.

HUGS Monthly Mission

Sunday, April 21; 6 p.m. in Room 122
Plant Seeds for Community Garden

Join in a fun family activity suitable for all ages. Help us plant seedlings that will be transplanted in the St. Paul's Community Garden and will grow and provide produce for the Neighborhood House Food Pantry.

United Women in Faith

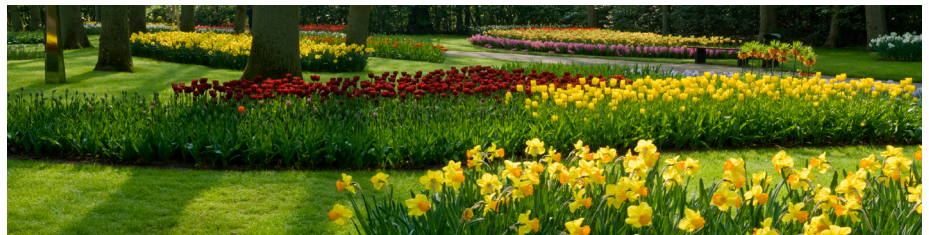
We Believe Love in Action Can Change the World

April Circle Meetings

- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, April 10 at 1 p.m. in the Library.
- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, April 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor - *I am a Girl from Africa* book report.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in Rickard Chapel Getting to know Dr. Seung Hee Cho.



Executive Board Meeting: Thursday, April 18; 9:30 a.m. in Room 132.



United Women in Faith Spring Dinner & Program

Tuesday, April 30

6 p.m. - Circle Meetings

6:30 p.m. - Dinner; Hickey Hall

7:15 p.m. - Program; Hickey Hall

UWF invites you to join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship, food and an interesting program. Gather at 6 p.m. for circle meetings followed by a salad potluck dinner in Hickey Hall. Please bring a salad to share. Rev. Cora Glass will speak at 7:15 p.m. A World Thank Offering will be collected for Global Ministries which provide Christ like care around the world. Please RSVP to your circle chair or the church office at 248-651-9361.

Start cleaning closets!

Spring Rummage Sale

Spring Sale - May 10 & 11

NEW Drop off days and times:

Monday, May 6 from 5 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7 from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Can you volunteer? Contact Kathy Lutey at drlutey2@wowway.com.

Donating Jewelry: Sometimes jewelry gets missed if it is in a regular donation bag. If you want to bring jewelry in early, please leave it in the designated box in the main office. On Sundays, you may leave it in a box at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex or at Open Door. Please share this information with others at church.

Donations for Unique Boutique: If you have designer clothing, purses, scarves, etc. please pack them separately and take donations directly to Room 122-123.

Thank you for your generous support!



Missions

Hands with Detroit

Saturday, April 27; 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Cass Community Social Services

St. Paul's is organizing a team to work at Hands with Detroit at Cass Community Social Services. We will be helping both in the kitchen and with maintenance projects.



In the kitchen, tasks include food prep, kitchen and dining room maintenance, garden weeding, and spring clean-up. Volunteers will be split into groups of 5-10 to prepare meals for the day, clean and organize the pantry, deep clean the dining room, and prepare the garden for spring planting. (Ages 10 and older)

Maintenance projects include minor repair and maintenance projects throughout the ten CCSS main campus buildings. Tasks will be assigned based on the skill sets of the volunteers. This is NOT kid friendly. **Tools Needed:** Volunteers are asked to bring cordless tools, hammers, painting supplies, and/or gloves.

St. Paul's will also be providing materials to make 25 hygiene kits. Please contact John Kelly at jpkelly1909@gmail.com to register.

**Every person who comes helps to transform lives.
Every person who comes helps to make the work lighter.
Every person who comes helps to be the Light.
Every person who comes matters.**

Join the St. Paul's Community Garden Volunteer Group

Saturday, April 27 at 1 - 3 p.m. - Garden cleanup and early planting
Sunday, June 2 at 1 - 3 p.m. - Second planting

The St. Paul's Community Garden mission is to grow healthy vegetables and donate 100% to the Neighborhood House Food Pantry in Rochester. **We need volunteers** throughout the summer to help plant, water, harvest at the garden site, and deliver to the food pantry. **No previous gardening experience is needed.** Some volunteers come weekly, and some come for just the plantings or cleanups. You can choose your own level of time commitment. For more information or to get added to our garden email contact list, please contact Rob Patten at robpattenjr@comcast.net.



Children & Youth Music Program

Sunday, April 7, 21, 28 & May 5
Choir Room

Youth Choir: 4:15 - 5:10 p.m.

Children's Choir: 5:15 - 6 p.m.

All children and youth are invited to participate in the music program which will be showcased on Sunday, April 14 and Mother's Day, May 12 at the 11 a.m. service. Rehearsal dates are April 7, 21, 28 and May 5.



Mission Challenge 2024

Raise \$20,000 for Lighthouse Family Shelter in Pontiac

Mission Council is pleased to announce the 2024 Missions Project. Lighthouse Family Shelter will use our \$20,000 donation to convert bathrooms on the first floor to make them wheelchair accessible. Lighthouse Family Shelter houses 18 families, on average 60 people. The Family Shelter is intended to be a short-term fix, with the goal being to set the families up with permanent housing. Upon their arrival the families are assigned a case worker who helps them during the transition. The program has a 95% success rate for families staying in the permanent housing for two years after assignment.

Please help us meet our goal to support this worthy cause.



St. Paul's Preschool Register 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 Christian-based, 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. **Schedule a tour today!**

Apply Online at stpaulsrochester.org/preschool.

Preschool Teacher Needed

Part-time Position for 2024-2025 School Year

St. Paul's Preschool is looking to add another preschool teacher to grow our great team! Experience in an early education setting is preferred. For more information, please contact Jennifer Archey at preschool@stpaulsrochester.org.

Third Thursday Dinner Out

Thursday, April 18; 6:30 p.m. Alibi
 16700 Rochester Rd. Troy

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



Middle School Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders and their friends
 Sundays 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Apr 7 Noah's Ark, Take 2
 Apr 14 Bingo Night with Friends
 Apr 21 Surprise
 Apr 28 YouLead, Youth Potluck
 May 5 End of Year Off Campus Party

High School Youth Group

All 9th - 12th graders and friends Sundays,
 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Apr 7 Noah's Ark, Take 2
 Apr 14 Bingo Night with Friends
 Apr 21 Surprise
 Apr 28 YouLead, Youth Potluck
 May 5 End of Year Off Campus Party

**No matter what the activity,
 laughter is guaranteed!**



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.

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.

Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School

July 22 - 26 9 a.m. to noon
Dive into friendship with God

Registration begins in May
for children 4 - 5th grade.

Volunteers Needed!
Email:
Amy@stpaulsrochester.org

Holy Communion

April 7
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 Drive

Monday, April 22; 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'.

Upcoming Baptisms

April 14, May 12, July 21

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.



New Member Class

Sunday, May 5
10:30 a.m. - noon or 12:15 - 1:45 p.m. in the Parlor
If you interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's and would like to learn more about the mission of St. Paul's, small groups and the many ministry teams that are offered, watch for more information in the May/June Evangel or contact Marilyn Kress at 586-212-9065.

Looking Ahead...

May

- 4th UMM Breakfast
- Support For Caregivers
- 5th New Member Class
- 5-11th Rummage Sale Week
- 12th Mother's Day - Baptisms
- HITH Concert - Paul Keller
- 13th Blood Drive
- 16th Spark Book Group
- UWF Book Club
- 19th Confirmation
- 21st JOY - Just Older Youth
- 27th Memorial Day - office closed

June

- 1st UMM Breakfast
- Support For Caregivers
- 9th Grad Sunday/Senior Brunch
- 17th Blood Drive
- 18th JOY - Just Older Youth
- 20th Spark Book Group
- UWF Book Club
- 26th Concert in the Garden
- Juan Riveros

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	John 20:19-31	Medicine for the Soul	Rev. Dulworth
14		John 3:1-7	We Purify in Hope	Rev. Dr. Gutierrez
21	Volunteer Appreciation	John 10:11-18	Love the Sheep	Rev. Dulworth
28		John 15:1-8	Connected and Fruitful	Rev. May

SERMON SERIES April