

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

September 2024



September 2024

Love Your Neighbor

St. Paul wrote, "For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:14) This September, we're kicking off the fall season at St. Paul's as we seek to live out Jesus' call in our lives to "Love Your Neighbor." Fred Rogers once said, "I believe that appreciation is a holy thing--that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred." Loving our neighbor is really about seeing God's presence in our midst in the presence of our neighbors. During worship in September, we'll turn to Mister Rogers, Jesus, and others who help us learn a little bit more about loving our neighbors.

You won't want to miss out all that's happening in the St. Paul's neighborhood as our fall ministry season gets well under way. Whether it's confirmation class, a new adult study class, Sunday school, children's choirs alongside adult music ministries, Harmony in the Hills, a men's or women's group, or so much more, you won't want to miss out this fall as we draw ourselves closer to God by getting to know our neighbors better.

Invite your neighbors, friends, and family to join us on Kick-Off Sunday, September 8, for our Neighborhood Party and a day filled with games, food, fun, bounce houses, a dunk tank, and more. The celebration on the north lawn begins at 10:15 a.m. following our 9:30 a.m. Open Door service in Hickey Hall and continues through 1 p.m. well after our 11 a.m. traditional service in the Sanctuary. Our children and youth programming resumes September 8 as well.

At St. Paul's, we enjoy creating the neighborhood community where everyone can experience a sense of belonging as we inspire others to live and love like Jesus. So invite someone to join us as we love our neighbors near and far.

Blessings,

Elbert Dulworth

Senior Pastor



Sunday Schedule

September 1

Last Outdoor Service

9:30 a.m. • under portico

Traditional Service

11 a.m. • Sanctuary

Beginning September 8

Open Door Service

9:30 a.m. • Hickey Hall

Traditional Service

11 a.m. • Sanctuary

Children's Sunday School

during both services

Coffee Hour

Before & after each service

Youth Group & Confirmation

5 - 7 p.m. • Hickey Hall

Beginning September 15

Adult Sunday School

Faith & Friends 9:30 a.m.

Family Life 9:45 a.m.



Neighborhood Party

Fall '24 Kick-off Celebration

Sunday, September 8; 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 for an outdoor celebration with food, music, bounce houses and lots of fun! (In Hickey Hall in case of inclement weather.)

Join us for Worship:

9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

**Children's Sunday School &
Youth Group Programming
Resume September 8.**



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, beginning September 4
7 - 8:30 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

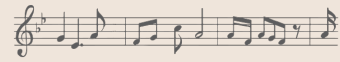
The Open Door band, open to all ages, leads worship for the Open Door service Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall.

Wesley Ringers

**Thursdays, beginning October 3
7:30 - 8:45 p.m. in Bell Room**

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

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Harmony in the Hills Concert

Aaron Berofsky violin

& Christopher Harding piano

Sunday, September 29; 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for an exceptional afternoon of classical and chamber music by Aaron Berofsky and Christopher Harding. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for under 18 and are available at stpaulsrochester.org.

NEW Tutoring Program

Begins in September - Volunteers Needed



We are excited to announce that St. Paul's, in partnership with **Reading Partners** and **Brilliant Detroit**, will be launching a new reading tutoring

program in September.

We need volunteers who:

- love to read
- are at least 14 years old
- enjoy serving others
- have 1 to 2 hours/week to tutor an elementary aged child online or onsite.

For more information, contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org.

St. Paul's Preschool Welcomes New Director

Hello everyone,

As we prepare to embark on this exciting new school year, I wanted to take a moment to share my enthusiasm with all of you. With over 20 years of experience working with preschoolers, I have cherished every opportunity to be a part of their early educational journey. The joy of witnessing their first school experiences is truly rewarding, and I am eager to bring that passion to our preschool community.

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome I received from everyone at St. Paul's. Your kindness and support have already made a significant impact, and I am looking forward to working closely with you all as we make this a wonderful year for our preschoolers.

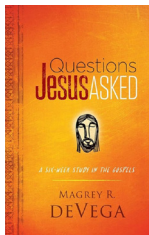
Thank you for your support and encouragement. Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

Michelle Staarmann

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

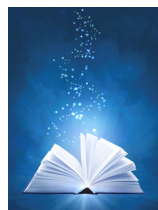
Fridays, September 6 - October 18

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

Leaders: Nancy Fidler & Jean Meyers

Questions Jesus Asked: A Six-week Study in the Gospels by Magrey R. deVega.

Join us as we explore six questions Jesus asked his disciples which still pertain now, such as: Who do you say I am? Why are you afraid? Why are you anxious? What do you live for? Our discussions will be based on Amplifymedia videos shown in class. (You can even watch them ahead of time if you want to get started!) Books are not required but can be ordered online. For further information or to sign up, contact Nancy Fidler at 248-933-1981 or nnfidler@gmail.com.



Seeker's Study

Mondays, beginning September 9

1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Parlor and on Zoom

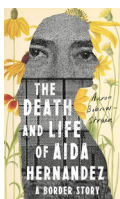
Everyone is welcome to join us as we begin a six-week study of *The Gospel of Mark* by Amy-Jill Levine. Come, join this warm and inviting group as A-J leads us to discover the Good News in this, the earliest Gospel in our Bible. The author will challenge us to discern who Jesus is for Mark and for us. Books can be ordered from your favorite book seller.



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, September 17; 12 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Brown Bag lunches are back! Plan to be part of JOY as we kick off Fall. Coffee, water, tea and DESSERT are provided. Everyone 60 and beyond is just an older youth. Invite your neighbors, your pew mates...Y'ALL COME every third Tuesday of the month for food, fellowship and lots of laughter and storytelling.



UWF Book Club

Thursday, September 19; 6 p.m. in Room 132

Join us for a discussion of *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: A Border Story* by Aaron Bobrow-Strain. Please contact Nancy Shannon at nancgs@aol.com with questions.



New Member Class

Discover St. Paul's

Sunday, September 15

10:30 a.m. - noon OR

12:15 - 1:45 p.m. in the Parlor

If you are new to St. Paul's, we would like to help you and your family connect with people in the church. Learn more about small groups and ministry teams that are offered, visit with the pastors, learn more about the United Methodist Church, and tour the building. We think you will discover St. Paul's is for you! We will welcome those who choose to become members on September 22. Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex or in Hickey Hall. Childcare will be available only at the 10:30 a.m. class. Please email Amy@stpaulsrochester.org if you need childcare. Contact Marilyn Kress at marilyn.kress@gmail.com or 586-212-9065 for more information.



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, September 19

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we read *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley. We welcome new members! Contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

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



All men are invited to join us for breakfast and brotherhood. No RSVP necessary. Invite a guest. **Join us!** Contact Dave deSteiger at 248-376-0416.



Early Bird Men's Group

Early Bird Men's Group

Wednesday, September 18
6:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Join us for devotions, conversation, and prayer as we grow in Christ's love and live out our faith. All men are welcome! For more information contact Larry Heflin at HLarry2828@gmail.com or Bob Johnson at bobgj@prodigy.net.

Sunday Adult Studies

Sundays, September 15, 22 & 29

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.

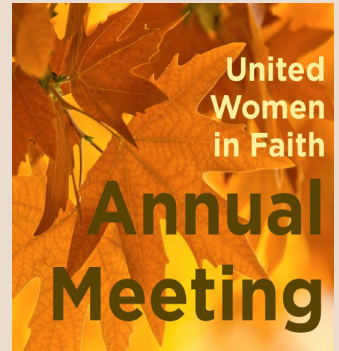
Family Life Active Couples and Singles, 50 & older

9:45 - 10:30 a.m. in Rickard Chapel

Over 50? Looking for a caring Christian fellowship with a good sense of humor? Join us! Contact Kathy Swisher at swish1770@aol.com.



United Women in Faith



UWF Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 10

6 p.m. Circle Meetings

6:30 p.m. Light Dinner in Hickey Hall

7 p.m. Business Meeting in Hickey Hall

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 2025 budget and slate of officers. New members will be inducted. Get information on upcoming fundraisers and events.



Looking Ahead

Save your Stuff!

Drop off days:

Monday, Oct 7; 5 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct 8; 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sale Days: October 11 & 12

It's time to clean your closets, basements and garages and save those items you would like to donate for the rummage sale. Get organized and make space while helping others. All of the proceeds from the rummage sale are donated to charities that support women and children. **Volunteers always needed!** A signup sheet will be available soon with links in The Connector or on our website at stpaulsrochester.org.

Prayer Shawl & Quilt Ministries All are Welcome!

Tuesday, September 10 in Room 132

Prayer Shawls

1 - 2:30 p.m.

Quilt & Handmade Treasures

2:30 - 4 p.m.

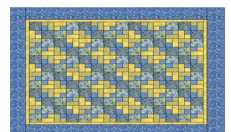


Both groups will meet to plan for the upcoming year while we create more beautiful items.

All are welcome even if you wish to learn.

If curious and have not yet come but would like to, please

contact Donna Heflin at 248-505-6413 or Heflin.donnaj@gmail.com.



Mission Corner

Recap of Activity

Accomplished!

Mission Challenge 2024 **Raise \$20,000 for Lighthouse** **Family Shelter in Pontiac**

The Missions Council is pleased to report that we have achieved our 2024 Missions Project goal to raise \$20,000 to convert bathrooms in the Lighthouse Family Shelter to make them wheelchair accessible. **Thank you everyone who has generously donated to this year's campaign.**

In 2025 our focus will shift to an international project. The Missions Council plans to select the subject of our campaign at our September meeting.



Adult Ministries

Adult Ministries has a new logo

In addition to the new look, we are looking for new ideas and volunteers. If you are interested in helping with Adult Ministry or have ideas for new programming, **we'd love to hear from you!** Please email Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org.



Children & Youth Music Program

Resumes Sunday September 15

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

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

All children and youth are invited to participate in the music program led by Besty Marsh and Missy Castle. Children's choir is for students K-5th grade. Youth choir is for students 6th - 12th grade. Both choirs will perform periodically in worship.



Scholarship Fund Update

Thank You, St. Paul's!

The St. Paul's Scholarship Fund and the Education Council thank all who generously donated to replenish the St. Paul's Scholarship Fund. With the matching donation, **\$15,545 will be added to the fund balance.** This will put the fund in better financial position than at the start of last season.

Over the past ten years, the Education Council has awarded 65 college scholarships to students from our congregation, totaling over \$85,000. These scholarships have been made possible by the generous donations from members of St. Paul's UMC to the St. Paul's Scholarship Fund.



Third Grade Bibles

Sunday, September 29

9:30 & 11 a.m. services

Third graders will receive their Bibles on September 29 during worship. If you would like your child to receive a Bible, please sign up using the link in the Connector or on our website at stpaulsrochester.org.

High School Youth Group

All 9th - 12th graders & their friends
Sundays beginning September 8
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!**

September 8 Youth Group Kick Off!
September 15 Good Deeds = Sweet Treats
September 22 YouLead
September 29 Team Fun



Middle School Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends
Sundays beginning September 8
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 8 Youth Group Kick Off!
Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting
September 15 Good Deeds = Sweet Treats
September 22 See You at the Pole
September 29 Game Time



New Dates!
Meet & Eat
Formerly Third Thursday
Wednesday, September 18
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.

Keep our Students in your Prayers

Continue to 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, and shutting out the negativity from our hectic world. May they feel comfort in God's presence and knowing they have a team of adults praying for them.

Childcare & Sunday School Resume September 8

Children younger than kindergarten can attend childcare at the start of each worship service in Room 127.

Children in kindergarten through 5th grade will attend Sunday school together in Room 126. **Please walk your children to Sunday school and sign them in each week** so that we can get to know one another and keep everyone safe.



Save the Date - HS Students & Parents

High School Worktrip Meeting

Sunday, October 6; 5 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Join us to learn about our 2025 summer worktrip. Students must be entering Freshman year this fall to attend worktrip next summer.

Confirmation Youth & Parent Meeting

September 8; 5 - 7 p.m. in the Parlor

We invite any student 7th grade and older to participate in this year's Confirmation experience led by Rev. Dulworth. During our studies we will work together



to learn more about the United Methodist Church, take field trips to learn other religious practices, learn more about the Bible and become closer to God and others. **Students and parents meet September 8 to discuss the calendar and expectations and share a meal with youth group at 6:30 p.m.** Classes run September 15 through Confirmation on May 18. Cost for the class is \$100. Registration forms can be found on the Confirmation page at stpaulsrochester.org. **Register by September 10** by returning forms to church or emailing them to Debbie@stpaulsrochester.org.



Holy Communion

Sunday, September 1; 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 Drive

Monday, September 9

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 (sponsor code 'stpaulunited').



Blood Pressure Clinic

Sunday, September 15

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

Stop by between services to have your blood pressure checked and pick up information on Children's Health.



Upcoming Baptism Dates

Sunday, September 22 & November 24

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.



St. Paul's Preschool

Register for Fall 2024

Mommy & Me: 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. **Apply Online at** stpaulsrochester.org/school.

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

The Open Door Service

9:30 a.m. Outdoors

Traditional Service

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

1 James 1:17-27

YouTube That!

Rev. May

The Open Door Service

9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Traditional Service

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

8 Fall Kick-off Celebration Children, Youth & Adult Programming Resume

Luke 10:25-37

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Rev. Dulworth

15 Luke 16:19-31

See Your Neighbor

Rev. Dulworth

22 Baptisms

1 Corinthians 13

Love Is...

Rev. Kress

29 Luke 5:27-32

The Neighbor at Your Table

Rev. Dulworth

SERMON SERIES September

Looking Ahead October

- 5th Men's Breakfast**
- Support for Caregivers**
- 6th World Communion Sunday**
- 11-12th Rummage Sale**
- 14th Blood Drive**
- 15th JOY**
- 17th SPARK Book Group**
- UWF Book Club**
- 20th HITH Concert**
- S'more Church**
- 27th Generosity Sunday**
- Trick or Eat**

