

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

November 2024



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

November 2024

Pastor's Message

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Thessalonians 5:16-18 NRSV

Gratitude

As Thanksgiving approaches in the coming weeks, St. Paul's words inspire a deep sense of gratitude. In this season of harvests, homecomings, and family gatherings, we pause to remember to give thanks. St. Paul seemed to understand that gratitude grounds us. Throughout this month, gratitude will also ground our ministry together at St. Paul's.



On November 3, we'll celebrate and give thanks for our saints who have entered glory before us at both of our worship services. On November 10 at 5 p.m., our staff and Missions Council will lead us in our second Night of 1,000 Blessings for the year as we put together over 1,000 blessings to send into our community and beyond. During worship on November 17, married couples will have the opportunity to renew their wedding vows with us. At the end of the month, we'll gather following our worship services on November 24 for Hanging of the Greens as we prepare our building for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

In this season, I find myself filled with gratitude and I hope you do as well. Perhaps you will join me in journaling for 30 days this month about a moment of gratitude each day that with St. Paul, we might find ourselves giving thanks "in all circumstances" even if we sometimes find ourselves wondering about those circumstances themselves. Gratitude has a way of anchoring us even when the seas are rough. So, today I begin with a deep sense of gratitude to serve together with you at St. Paul's as we faithfully inspire others to live and love like Jesus. I can't wait to see what God will bring us tomorrow.

With thanks,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor



New Member Class

Monday, November 4

6:30 – 7:30 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 that St. Paul's is for you!

Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex or in Hickey Hall. Contact Marilyn Kress at marilyn.kress@gmail.com or 586-212-9065 for more information.

Finance Administrator Update

Kaye Thornton, who has been working on contract as the Finance Administrator for St. Paul's, has ended her contract effective October 10, 2024. We thank Kaye for her service to St. Paul's and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Please welcome our interim Finance Administrator Pamela Janco who is working on contract. Pam has an extensive background in accounting and has experience working in a church as well as other industries. Pam is married with two children and three grandchildren. Stop by to welcome Pam as she will be working onsite full time Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. She may also be reached through email at finance@stpaulsrochester.org.



Marriage Renewal Service

Sunday, November 17

9:30 & 11 a.m. services

Couples celebrating their 5th, 10th wedding anniversary, etc. (in 5 year increments), or any anniversary over 50 years, are invited to participate. Call the office at 248-651-9361 by **Monday, November 4** to have names printed in the worship program.

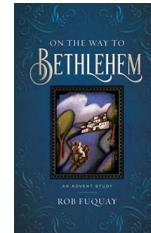
Annual Church Conference

Thursday, November 7

7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty, chair.

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



Advent Study

Begins week of November 24

Experience joy and wonder as we will follow the journey to Christmas through different geographical areas leading to the birth of Jesus. Classes are

forming now for the four-week study of *On the Way to Bethlehem* by Rob Fuquay. If you are interested in joining a class or would like to lead a class, contact Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org.

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Harmony in the Hills Concert

Nicole Keller

Sunday, November 17

3 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for an exceptional afternoon with Nicole Keller who is known for her dynamic and eclectic performance on organ and expanding listeners horizons by pairing familiar sounds and genres with new and innovative pieces. She is a consummate performer and will amaze attendees with her unique musical style.

Free will donation.



2025 Altar Flowers Sponsorship

Through your generous support, the sponsorship of altar flowers at St. Paul's has remained a loving tradition and beautiful part of our worship experience. Stop by the Welcome Center desk in the Narthex to reserve your date for 2025. Also, you may contact Linda Jeffries at

248-651-9361 or linda@stpaulsrochester.org.



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 24

After 11 a.m. worship

Join us in decorating St. Paul's for the Advent season. We will gather for a light lunch in the Parlor after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, November 24. Afterwards, we will set up and decorate trees throughout the church. If you have questions, please contact Amy Schultz at sacredrock1@yahoo.com.



Looking Ahead

Neurodivergent Program

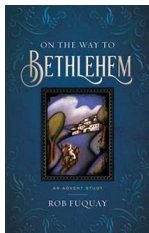
Sunday, December 1; 5 p.m. in the Parlor

Neurodivergence is a newer term used to describe challenges such as ADHD, anxiety, autism, dyslexia, down syndrome and many other differences people may have. Learn more about what neurodivergence is and how we can become an inclusive community. Led by Rev. Latha Ravi. For more information email Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org.

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, November 1 - 22

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

On the Way to Bethlehem Author Rob Fuquay creatively combines a look at geography along with important characters in the Christmas drama through Rome—A Place of Longing, Jerusalem—A Place of Waiting,

Nazareth—A Place of Simplicity, Bethlehem—A Place of Humility. Our discussions will be based on Amplifymedia videos shown in class.

To order an optional book (\$15) or for further information, contact Nancy Fidler at 248-933-1981 or nnfidler@gmail.com.



Seeker's Study

Mondays, through November 25

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

Everyone is welcome to a new study of **Context: Putting Scripture in Its Place** by Rev. Josh Scott. This work looks at verses in scripture we know by heart, but may not

know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Scott helps us examine the biblical context and teaches us the historical and cultural world from which they come. Are the familiar texts saying what we thought or were told they were saying? Come join us as we discover "pretext", "proof text" or God's living and challenging Word. All are welcome...we've never met a stranger!



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, November 19; 12 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Just Older Youth will meet for a brown bag lunch; coffee and dessert provided. Everyone sixty plus is invited to share food, fellowship and service projects involving our "Keeping in Touch" friends who can no longer attend worship or be involved

in other church programs. Bring your friends and neighbors. Everyone is welcome to be part of this **Joyful Youth Group!**



UWF Book Club

Thursday, November 21; 6 p.m. in Room 132

Join us for a discussion of *The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family* by Ibtihaj Muhammed. Please contact Nancy Shannon at nancgs@aol.com with questions.

United Methodist

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 2

8 a.m. in the Parlor



All men are invited to join us for breakfast and brotherhood. Invite a guest. **Join us!** Contact Dave deSteiger at 248-376-0416.



Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, November 19

7 p.m. in the Parlor

**Gus O'Connor's Public House
324 S. Main St. Rochester**

Sing along with us! St Paul's provides the appetizers and you provide your voice. Participants buy their own drinks.



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, November 21

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we read *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. We welcome new members! Contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.



THANK YOU!

Rummage Sale Results

Raised \$22,500 for Missions

Thank you to all our volunteers — you are amazing! Thanks to all who donated items and food. Thanks to all who purchased items. Proceeds will be given to charities supported by the United Women in Faith. **Thank you to ALL who made this sale a GIANT success!**

United Women in Faith

We Believe Love in Action Can Change the World

November Circle Meetings

- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, November 13 at 1 p.m. in the Library
- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, November 14 at 9 a.m. in the Parlor. Sending Love - Make Thanksgiving cards for homebound.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday November 14 at 7 p.m. in Rickard Chapel. Program: "Thanks-living" by Holley Walling

Executive Board Meetings: Thursday, November 21; 9:30 a.m. in Room 132
Spend-Down Meeting is Thursday, December 10; 9:30 a.m. in Room 132.



United Women in Faith

That Takes the Cake Sale

Sunday, November 17

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 16 between 12 - 2 p.m. in the Narthex. Items must be individually wrapped for sale. Contact Jane Chamberlain at 586-323-2537.



HUGS. Humor, Understanding, Growth and Support

For mothers and grandmothers of all ages

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

Nov 6 Colorful Way to Celebrate Advent A creative way to have the whole family involved in celebrating Advent. Based on the doodle prayers in Sybil MacBeth's *Praying in Color*, we'll show how you can pray in color as you "count up" to Christmas!

Nov 13 It's Beginning to Look Like...Christmas?? We will create an easy "craft" memento to take with us or share with someone else. Bring your sharpies or markers if you have them.

Nov 20 That's a Wrap! Dread the midnight wrapping on Christmas Eve? Bring wrapping paper and ribbons for a wrapping party. Come if you love wrapping or come if you need a spot to wrap those gifts outside of little eyes. Or simply come for coffee and conversation as we try to keep the holy in the holidays and maintain our sanity. Stay for **Wednesday LUNCH BUNCH** 11:30-12:45. Bring one ingredient to include in a potluck salad - there is a sign up for ingredients.

Nov 27 No HUGS Enjoy your Thanksgiving with your families!

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 - Charlotte's Wings

Through December we will collect NEW children's books for Charlotte's Wings to be given to ailing children in hospitals and hospice care in Michigan. Bring donations to HUGS or drop them off at Sue's house (4657 Fawn Hill Ct. Rochester) or Steph's house (163 Sugar Pine Rd. RH). For more information on this incredible organization go to charlottes-wings.com/.

Missions

Mission Challenge 2025

Sponsor 100 Students at Henri Dennis School in Liberia

The Missions Council has chosen to raise funds for scholarships for children at Henri W. Dennis United Methodist School in Monrovia, Liberia as our 2025 Mission Project. It costs approximately \$180 to sponsor each student for the school year, and we hope to sponsor 100 students.

Follow the progress towards our goal this year by watching the showcase display on the lower level across from the elevator. As each scholarship is raised, a child figurine will be moved inside of the 'heart of students' in the display. Watch as all 100 "students" are included inside.



Night of 1000 Blessings

Sunday, November 10; 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

The past two years we have had such positive response to Night of 1000 Blessings mission night that we decided to do it twice this year!

Join us on Sunday, November 10 as we undertake mission projects and donation opportunities 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 light supper. **Invite your friends, families, and neighbors.**

As a part of the evening we are collecting **300 boxes of cereal**. You may drop them off early in the cart in the Narthex or in Hickey Hall. Or, bring them with you on November 10.

This is a great mission opportunity for families!

Christmas Food Mission Project 2024

Again this year, St. Paul's has committed to help about 100 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.

FINAL SALE!

Handmade Treasures/ Quilt Ministry

Sunday, November 17

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Narthex/Hickey Hall

This will be the final sale for Handmade Treasures. We will be disbanding the quilt group after this sale to focus on other areas the church needs us now. All proceeds go to the Mission 2025. We will continue to create lap quilts for you to give to those in need of comfort. Contact Donna Heflin with questions at 248-505-6413.





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 10**. Thanks!

New Dates!

Meet & Eat

**Formerly Third Thursday
Wednesday, November 13
6:30 p.m. at Paint Creek Tavern
613 N. Main St. Rochester**

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



MS Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. Hickey Hall

Nov 3	No Youth Group - RCS Break
Nov 10	Night of 1000 Blessings
Nov 17	Operation Christmas Child
Nov 24	Spread the Love



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

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

Nov 3	No Youth Group - RCS Break
Nov 10	Night of 1000 Blessings
Nov 17	Operation Christmas Child
Nov 24	Spread the Love

Sign up today!

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 will be partnering with the **Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY, June 22-28, 2025**.



St. Paul's Preschool Corner

A Word from our Director

We're off to a great start this year at our preschool! Our little learners have been diving into exciting topics like apples, pumpkins, Thanksgiving, letters, numbers, and so much more.

Our first field trip to the apple orchard was a highlight, filled with laughter and discovery. The children had a blast exploring and learning about where our food comes from!

As we look forward to the upcoming holidays, we're taking time to reflect on everything we are thankful for. It's a wonderful opportunity for the children to express gratitude and share what makes them happy.

If you're interested in joining our preschool community, please visit our website, stpaulsrochester.org/preschool, for more information.



Warm regards,
Michelle Staarmann
St. Paul's Preschool Director



Holy Communion

November 3 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 10

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

Stop by between services to have your blood pressure checked.



Blood Drive

Monday, November 18

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').



Upcoming Baptism Dates

Sunday, November 24, January 12

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.



stpaulsrochester.org/preschool



Looking Ahead... December

- 1st Neurodivergent Program
- 2nd Poinsettia Orders Due
- 3rd Christmas and Candlelight
- 5th SPARK Luncheon
- 6th Advent Concert at noon
- 7th UMM Breakfast
- 8th Support for Caregivers
- Baby's First Christmas
- Cass Breakfast
- Rochester Community
- Christmas Concert
- 9th Blood Drive
- 13th Advent Concert at noon
- RSO Concert 8 p.m.
- 14th A Merry Little Christmas Party
- 15th All Music Sunday
- Poinsettia Sunday
- Cookie Sale
- 17th JOY Just Older Youth
- 19th Blue Christmas Service
- 24th Christmas Eve Worship
- 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

9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Traditional Service

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

3 New Directions • All Saints Sunday • Communion

Revelation 21:1-7

Touching Heaven Now

Rev. Kress

10 Ephesians 4:25-32

The Way of Kindness

Rev. Dulworth

17 Wedding Vow Renewal

Matthew 7:12

#DoUntoOthers

Rev. May

24 Baptisms • New Members

John 18:33-37

When the End is the Beginning

Rev. Dulworth

SERMON SERIES November