

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

December 2024



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

December 2024

On the Way to Bethlehem

I love to travel and explore new places. I'm always inspired by new cultures, new insights, new sights, and new sounds. This Advent, I hope you will join us on a very holy journey **On the Way to Bethlehem** as we walk with one another at St. Paul's to that place where hope, peace, joy, and love entered our world, where heaven touched earth, and where God decided to enter our human story in the flesh of a vulnerable baby born in a town filled with shepherds. On our way, we'll stop at some of the locations that led to that starry night when a manger became the cradle of love for a broken world.

Throughout this season, don't miss out on the many opportunities to join us on this beautiful Advent journey towards the hope that is Christmas. Whether it is A Merry Little Christmas Party, an Open House, Beer and Carols, Christmas concerts, All Music Sunday, or a Christmas Eve candlelight service, an Advent study, or something else, this season is more about the journey that we make with one another than it is about the destination. Along the way, may we discover anew the light that shines even in the darkest of streets and corners so that together we may share light and life with our world.

Advent Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor



Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 7

2 - 4 p.m. 632 Romeo St.

Rev. Elbert & Dawn Dulworth invite you to the parsonage to celebrate the joy of the season with a warm fire, fellowship, carols and plenty of food.

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.



Orders due December 2

Poinsettia Sunday December 15

Help decorate the church and memorialize or honor loved ones by purchasing a poinsettia. After services on December 15, plants may be picked up or donated to be delivered to homebound members. Place your order online at stpaulsrochester.org or find forms in the kiosk in the Narthex or in the church office. You may also call 248-651-9361 to order. **Poinsettias are \$15 each.**



Christmas and Candlelight

Tuesday, December 3

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

St. Paul's United Women in Faith invite you, your friends, spouses and neighbors to an evening of music and holiday cheer.

It is UWF's holiday gift to you!

Begin the season with a program featuring Townes Osborn Miller on flute with Dr. Seung Hee Cho on piano.

Dessert and coffee will be served in the Narthex following the program. Free-will offering collected for Rochester Area Neighborhood House.



Looking Ahead

January Sermon Series:

St. Paul's at the Movies

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. More details will be announced later in January in The Connector.



HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Advent Concert Series

Fridays, December 6 & 13; Noon in the Sanctuary

Add something special to your Advent Fridays by attending these 30-minute concerts. **Free Admission.**

December 6 Barbara Ann Ogar, flute & Terry Herald, guitar
December 13 Zeljko Milicevic, violin & Susan Clark Joul, piano

All Music Sunday

Sunday, December 15

9:30 & 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Celebrate Christmas with a Festival of Carols for Christmas featuring St. Paul's Music department including choirs, handbell choir, praise teams, and orchestra.

**No Open Door service
Sunday, December 15.**



Christmas Food Mission Project

St. Paul's and our partners at Neighborhood House will help about

100 families in need giving them Hollywood Market gift certificates to make their Christmas a little brighter.

We Need Donations!

This mission project is only possible because of the generous support of the St. Paul's congregation.



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 by scanning the QR code and selecting 'Give to Christmas Baskets' on the drop-down menu.

A Merry Little Christmas Party with LIVE Nativity

Saturday, December 14; 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Parlor, Rickard Chapel & North Lawn

Young and old are invited to join us as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. **PET and FEED the animals at the LIVE nativity** on the north lawn. Walk by and listen to the narrated Christmas story with shows every 15 minutes. In the Parlor, join us for crafts, and in Rickard Chapel visit with Santa and have cocoa and cookies. **Invite your friends and share some Christmas cheer.**

If you wish to donate, new and gently used toys will be collected for Grace Centers of Hope.



Blue Christmas

Thursday, December 19

7 p.m. in Rickard Chapel

You're invited to a service designed for those for whom the holidays may be difficult. If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, a transition or life change due to illness, depression, separation or divorce, please know that your church cares about you and offers a time for reflection, prayer and scripture.

It is our prayer that you will find comfort and hope in knowing that you are not alone, your feelings are honored and that God knows your pain and loves you unconditionally. Rev. Judy May preaches.



Classes & Groups

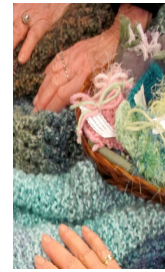


Seeker's Study

Mondays, December 2 - 23

1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Parlor and on Zoom
The Christmas Letters: Celebrating Advent with Those Who Told the Story First by Magrey R. De Vega, Pastor of Hyde Park UMC in Tampa, Florida. We are invited to read from the Epistle

writers about the impact of the coming of Christ from their perspective and the first Christians to receive them. Books can be purchased at Cokesbury or your favorite bookseller. Please contact Ronald Fisch at fischhouse1@comcast.net to receive conversation starters each week. Everyone is welcome!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday December 10

1-2:30 p.m. in Room 132

We have yarn available as we knit, crochet, or work on other needle arts. Prayer shawls are given freely for someone in need of warm hugs from those who make shawls and are available in the Narthex. Contact Donna Heflin at 248-505-6413.



SPARK Christmas Luncheon

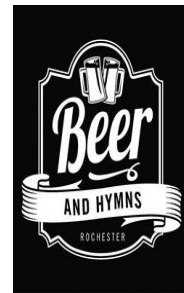
Thursday, December 5

12 p.m. at Recipes

134 University Dr. Rochester

Join us for our annual Christmas luncheon. We will be meeting at Recipes

for lunch and will remain for our meeting and selection of books for 2025. Reservation is in Linda Burnard's name.



Beer & Carols

Tuesday, December 10

7 p.m. Gus O'Connor's

324 S. Main St. Rochester

Join us in the joy of the season. Sing Christmas carols along with us! Participants buy their own drinks.

Mission Corner



Blood Drive

Monday, December 9; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 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').



Warm Coats Delivered

Last winter St. Paul's **donated 233 coats** for Baldwin Center's store where clients "shop" for their family members before Christmas. On November 13, Roxanne Cleveland delivered the coats donated last March to a very grateful Baldwin Center. We will be collecting coats again this winter. Look for the collection box in the Narthex, and shop the post-holiday coat sales! **Thank you for helping us make a difference in our local community.**



Mission Challenge 2025

Sponsor 100 Students at Henri Dennis School in Liberia

The Missions Council has chosen scholarships for children at Henri W. Dennis United Methodist School in Monrovia, Liberia as the 2025 Mission Project. It costs approximately \$180 to sponsor each student for the school year, and we hope to sponsor 100 students. To donate, please write 'MC 2025' on the envelope and on the memo line of your check made out to St. Paul's UMC or donate online by scanning the QR code and selecting 'MC 2025' on the drop-down menu.



United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 7
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.



United Women in Faith

We Believe Love in Action Can Change the World
December Circle Meetings

- **New Hope Circle** - Tuesday, December 3 at 7 p.m. for Christmas and Candlelight.
- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, December 11 at 1 p.m. Luncheon at the Olive Garden.
- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, December 12 at 9 a.m. in the Parlor. Christmas Brunch and Ornament Exchange.



Exec. Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 10; 9:30 a.m. in Room 132
Spend Down Meeting

J.O.Y.

Just Older Youth
Tuesday, December 17
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!



Christmas Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 15; 9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the Narthex
Purchase an excellent variety of homemade cookies and holiday treats pre-boxed to take home or give as gifts. All proceeds go entirely to local missions supported by our United Women in Faith.

Bakers needed!

Deliver cookies to the Parlor
on **Saturday, December 14**
from **10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** in
DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS.



Share your favorite cookies!



HUGS. Humor, Understanding, Growth and Support

For mothers and grandmothers of all ages

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

Dec 4 Christmas Brunch - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Parlor Enjoy brunch in the Parlor (easily accessed from the main entrance outside the church office) and have a relaxing start to December. Stay tuned for a signup for our celebration.

Dec 11 RCS is off Meet at Dessert Oasis (336 S Main St, Rochester, MI 48307) at 10 a.m. then off for some holiday cheer window shopping.

Dec 18 No HUGS Enjoy your Christmas break with your families! **HUGS resumes January 8.**

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/.

Stay-in-Touch



Remember to Stay in Touch with our older members this Christmas by sending a card to those listed below. Include a little note letting them know that you are remembering them and praying for them. They get so much enjoyment from reading all of the notes and cards.

Nancy Allinger - Cedarbrook
790 Letica Dr. Apt. 405
Rochester, MI 48307

Rich & Dorene Janet Alverson
2677 Lambeth Park
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Al & Nancy Boughner
151 Albertson St.
Rochester, MI 48307

Earl & Jean Bryant
1254 Churchill Cir.
Rochester, MI 48307

Thelma Childress - Green Acres
235 Pearl St. Room 212
Cadillac, MI 49601

Betty Curtiss
701 Market St. #255
Oxford, MI 48371

Ronald & Kathleen Davis, Sr.
2310 Geyer Ct.
Lake Orion, MI 48360

George & Janet Dice
979 Wexford Way
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Jan Frank
1356 E. Auburn Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Carolyn Googasian - Cedarbrook
790 Letica Dr. Apt. 210
Rochester, MI 48307

Dr. Tim & Betty Lou Hickey
15 Avenue De La Mer Apt 2505
Palm Coast, FL 32137-2290

Ruth Kelliher
1212 Kings Cove Ct.
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Rev Dwayne & Ruth Kelsey - Waltonwood
3250 Walton Blvd. Apt. 254
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Fredric & Barbara Kurelich
1447 Morley Ave.
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Rev. Johnny Liles (Lynda)
434 Taylor Ave.
Rochester, MI 48307

Diane McElreath
2251 W. Auburn Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Jim & Karen Morr
5792 Iris Ct.
Oakland, Twp, Mi 48306

Wendy McNaughton
2354 Galaxy Way
Lake Orion, MI 48360-1917

Robert Peters
882 Cobblestone
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Bill Ray
160 Stark Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Gwen Shelly
1726 Bedford Square Dr. Apt. 102
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Donald & Jane Shephard
102 Bobolink
Rochester Hills, MI 49309

Gayle Schuman - American House
2251 Auburn Rd. Apt. 54
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Wally & Lynn Semrau
3145 Lily Trail Apt. 2255
Oakland Twp., MI 48306

Isabelle Smith
3631 Lexington Dr.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Lorraine Towers - Cedarbrook
790 Letica Dr. Apt. 310
Rochester, MI 48307

Ethyl Waltenbaugh
1206 Churchill Circle
Rochester, MI 48307



St. Paul's Preschool Corner A Word from our Director

Our preschoolers continue to learn and grow in so many wonderful ways! This month, our Thanksgiving celebrations were a highlight, reminding us all of the many things we have to be thankful for. The joy and gratitude shared among the children was truly heartwarming. As we look forward to the Christmas season, we're excited to experience the wonder and magic through our preschoolers' eyes as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have a variety of festive activities planned that will bring joy and learning to our classroom.

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will begin for returning families in January and new families in February. Please visit our website stpaulsrochester.org/preschool for more information.

Warm regards,
Michelle Staarmann

Baby's First Christmas

**Sunday, December 8
9:30 & 11 a.m. services**

If your child or grandchild will be celebrating their first Christmas this season, we invite you to join us on Sunday, December 8 to be recognized. All new babies will be celebrated with a hand-crafted ornament. Please register by scanning the QR code.



All Together in Church

Sunday school children will remain in worship on **Sunday, December 1.**

Sunday school children and childcare families will remain in worship on **Sunday, December 29 & January 5** so that our volunteers and staff can enjoy the holiday weekends. **Sunday school and childcare resume on January 12.**



WREATHS
across
AMERICA

Service Opportunity

Wreaths Across America

Saturday, December 14; 11:30 a.m.
MIRGAC Guardian Angel Cemetery
4701 Rochester Rd. Rochester

Youth and their families are invited to help place veterans' wreaths on the headstones of American Heroes as part of National Wreaths Across America Day. Meet at the cemetery at 11:30 a.m. Ceremony time is 12 p.m. Placement immediately following ceremony.



Christmas Eve Family Service

**Sunday, December 24
4 p.m. at the Family Service**

We are bringing back the **Christmas Pageant!** ALL children and families who are interested in participating, please contact Amy Heitman at Amy@stpaulsrochester.org with interest.

Holy Family Participants Needed

Sunday, December 24; 10 p.m. Candlelight Service

We would LOVE to have your child or grandchild participate as Baby Jesus in our 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service! The parents will dress as Mary and Joseph. Siblings are welcome to join in too, as shepherds and angels. This well-loved tradition requires no rehearsal, acting or line memorization. Please email Amy@stpaulsrochester.org.

MS Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. Hickey Hall

Dec 1 No Youth Group

Dec 8 Spread Good Cheer

Nursing Home Caroling

Dec 15 Holiday Movie, Cookie Exchange



HS Youth Group All 9th - 12th graders & their friends
Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. in the Lounge (meet in Hickey Hall)

Dec 1 No Youth Group

Dec 8 Spread Good Cheer

Nursing Home Caroling

Dec 15 Holiday Movie, Cookie Exchange

No Youth Group December 22, 29 & January 5

Have a wonderful Christmas filled with love and laughter.

Youth Group Resumes January 12 for our annual Blanket Palooza event.

Meet & Eat

Tuesday, December 10

6:30 p.m. at Buddy's Pizza

2612 N. Squirrel Rd. Auburn Hills

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



Youth Group Alumni Dinner

Tuesday, December 17; 6:30 p.m.

Rochester Mills, 400 Water St. Rochester

All youth group alumni are invited to join us for a **FREE** dinner and catch up with old friends.

Please RSVP by December 12 to Jodi at Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org.



Christmas Eve Services Tuesday, December 24

Family Service

4 p.m. in Sanctuary - Children's Pageant
Music, joy, glow candles, and children's story.

Candlelight Services

7 & 10 p.m. in Sanctuary - Rev. Elbert Dulworth
Traditional service of carols, lessons and candlelight.

Services also live-streamed.

Find us on YouTube @StPaulsUMCRochester and Facebook @St Paul's United Methodist Church - Rochester
See more at stpaulsrochester.org.



Holy Communion

December 1 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, December 8

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

Stop by to have your blood pressure checked.



Year End Giving

All Gifts for 2024
must be postmarked
by December 31

All gifts for credit in the year 2024 must be dated 2024 and RECEIVED by the church by December 31 or POSTMARKED in the year 2024. Also, if you are prepaying a 2025 pledge, please make that notation on the check and envelope. **Thanks for your continued and faithful support.**

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

The Open Door Service

9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Traditional Service

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

1 First Sunday in Advent • Communion

Romans 8:18-25 Rome: A Place of Longing Rev. Dulworth

8 Second Sunday in Advent

Luke 1:5-17 Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting Rev. Dulworth

15 Third Sunday in Advent • All Music Sunday • Poinsettia Sunday

Luke 1:26-38 Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity Rev. Dulworth

22 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Romans 13:8-11 Bethlehem: A Place of Humility Rev. May

29 One Service at 11 a.m. in Sanctuary

Psalms 96:1 Walking New Paths Rev. Kress

SERMON SERIES **December**

Looking Ahead... January

- 1st Happy New Year
- Church Office Closed
- 4th UMM Breakfast
- Support for Caregivers Group
- 5th UWF Sunday
- 12th Baptisms
- Blanket Palooza
- 13th Blood Drive
- 15th Early Bird Men's Group
- 16th SPARK Book Group
- UWF Book Club
- 21st J.O.Y.

