

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

January 2025



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

January 2025

Pastor's Message

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! Those are the words that ring in our ears as we step into 2025. With the new year always comes the opportunity for new beginnings in our homes, in our lives, and even in the church. We make our resolutions and plan out what we'd like to accomplish. Whether we keep them all or not is another thing.

On the other hand, God does keep God's promises. And God has plans for us as well. In Jeremiah 29:11, the prophet reminds us, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." God has amazing plans for each of our lives as we step into this new year with hope. Not too unlike the people of Judah to whom the prophet is speaking, we too, struggle to see those plans from time to time amid whatever is going on in the world around.

It helps, however, to have people to walk that journey with us. Hope is easier and perhaps more life-giving when there are others hanging in there with us. As the new year falls upon us, I pray you'll take a moment to invite a friend to join you for our St. Paul's at the Movies series, for a new group study, for a mission opportunity like Blanket Palooza, or for a Harmony in the Hills concert. Let them know that you know of a place and a people that continue to live in hope of the future God has for us together in our world; a future filled with good plans and love for one another and for the world around us.

Blessings,

Elbert Dulworth

Senior Pastor



St. Paul's at the Movies January Sermon Series

Sundays, January 5 - 26

You won't want to miss out on this sermon series on faith and recent films as we enter a **NEW Year**.

Invite a friend to join you at a local theater or even in your home to watch a movie listed below and then come to worship on Sunday where we'll share reflections on the themes of faith that come up.

January 5	Mary on Netflix	Matthew 2:1-12	A Courageous NEW Way
January 12	Mufasa: The Lion King	Isaiah 43:1-7	A NEW Life
January 19	Wicked (Part 1)	Isaiah 62:1-5	A NEW Understanding
January 26	Moana 2	Luke 4:14-21	A NEW Calling



United Women in Faith Sunday

Sunday, January 12

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The United Women in Faith will have their installation of officers for 2025 during the 11 a.m. worship service and will recognize individuals for their dedication and service to St. Paul's in past years.



Everyone is Welcome!

Blanket Palooza

Sunday, January 12; 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Join the Middle School and High School youth as we make fleece tie blankets for those in need. In the past 8 years, we have donated over 450 blankets to community shelters. Please bring a **fleece blanket kit** or **2 pieces of fleece** measuring 2 yards x 2 yards and **scissors**. We will have additional kits on site to use for those unable to provide fleece.

This is a great event for all ages.



The Greater Detroit District invites you to

31st Celebration Honoring

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Honoring the Journey

Sunday, January 12 at 3 p.m.

Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church

211 Moross Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." He spoke of the urgency of making progress-despite turmoil, despite animosity, despite setbacks. To pay tribute to his legacy, and to continue to cultivate his dreams within our own lives, we invite you to gather at the 31st Celebration honoring Dr. King.

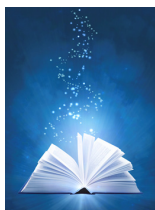
Through a service of song, prayer, litany, and reflection, we will use our voices to honor the journey. We will present awards and scholarships to individuals within our congregations who are pivotal examples of his legacy and who use their lives as a platform to speak. Re-center our hearts and intentions at this uplifting, poignant, and powerful celebration. We sincerely hope to see you there, either in person or via the livestream!

Altar Flowers

Through your generous support, the sponsorship of altar flowers at St. Paul's has remained a loving tradition and a beautiful part of our worship experience. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers please contact Linda Jeffries at 248-651-9361 or sign up Sunday at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.



Classes & Groups



Seeker's Study

Mondays, January 13 - February 17

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

Begin the new year with Paul W. Chilcote's book, **The Fullest Possible Love, Living in Harmony with God and Neighbor**. Chilcote will help us find the answer to the question: What does Wesleyan theology and the Methodist way of life have to do with Benedictine ideas and practices? We will discover similarities and overlaps in the practices and theological convictions of these two Christian streams. Come, look with us at the new and age-old ways of practicing our faith! Books can be ordered from your favorite bookseller. **Everyone is invited** to join this dynamic group as we grow in our faith and commitment to the beloved community.



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, January 17 - February 21

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

Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit

Leaders: Nancy Fidler & Susan Sonye

Author Matthew L. Skinner invites us to read this story of the early church with new eyes to notice how God acted then to see better where God is leading us today. Topics include What God Has Done, What God Does, Discernment & Change, Opposition, and more. Books are optional but we encourage all to read or listen to the book of Acts which reads like a story. Our discussions will be based on Amplify Media videos shown in class. For further information, contact Nancy Fidler at 248-933-1981.



Capital Campaign Update

Thank you for your input on the campaign survey.

Your feedback has been vital as we listen for where God continues to guide us in these coming months. The Capital Campaign team is co-chaired

by John Gaber and Shari Purdie. Also on the team are Rev. Elbert Dulworth, Jeni Walch, Rob & Sue Patten, Craig Tannehill, Frank & Susan Sonye, Larry & Carolyn Hice, Phil Swisher, Dana & Nancy Fidler, Marilyn Kress, Carol Cooper, Leslie Schneider, Jillian Pixley Crepeau, Wendell Crepps, Jean Meyers, Sigrid Grace, Rev. Rick & Marilyn Kress, Sharon Hiller, Judy Locke, Beth Talbert, and Camille Doerr.

Please keep them in your prayers in this important work in the days ahead.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 4

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 davidrdesteiger@gmail.com.



Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, January 14

7 p.m. Gus O'Connor's

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, January 16

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Start the new year with us as we discuss *The Women* by Kristen Hannah. If you have questions, call Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

UWF Book Club

Thursday, January 16

6 p.m. in Room 132

Join us for a discussion of *Our Missing Hearts: A Novel* by Celeste Ng. Contact Nancy Shannon at nancgs@aol.com with questions.





HUGS

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

Jan 8 Mugs & HUGS Off Campus

9:30 - 11 a.m. Green Cup Café

896 S Rochester Rd. Rochester Hills

Meet for casual conversation and well-deserved rest and relaxation. You are welcome whether this is the first time or you are a seasoned veteran!

Jan 15 Beat the Winter Blues

You survived the chaos of the holiday season, but the winter is still young. Bring your favorite card game or board game to have some old-school fun! While we play, we can chat about ways to keep spirits bright and avoid cabin fever.

Jan 22 Wild Card Wednesday

We may have a simple craft or show an engaging short video — you'll have to show up to find out what the day brings! We promise a morning of laughter and fellowship!

Jan 29 New Years Brunch Celebration

We thought we'd start a new tradition and enjoy a meal as we share our visions for the new year. We'll have a Signup Genius so you can let us know what dish you're bringing. There's always extra, so feel free to bring a new friend!

See the calendar at stpaulsrochester.org 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.



United Women in Faith

We Believe Love in Action Can Change the World

January Circle Meetings

- **Patience Circle** - No January meeting.
- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, January 8 at 1 p.m. in the Library.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, January 9 at 7p.m. in Rickard Chapel; Program: "Being with God in Nature" by Kathy Swisher.

Exec. Board Meeting: Thursday, February 20; 9:30 a.m. on Zoom



United Women in Faith Donates \$68,824

The United Women in Faith Executive Board met on December 10 for their annual Spend-Down meeting. They had **\$40,405** to donate to charities benefiting women and children on top of **\$28,819** already donated during the year. In 2024, the UWF donated a total of **\$68,824** to missions! **Thank you for your generous support of the UWF!**

UWF Reading Program

The United Women in Faith has a reading program that recommends books in 5 areas of faith development. Those who read in all 5 areas receive a Certificate of Recognition. For a complete list of qualifying books please search uwfaith.org/resources/reading_program.



Below is a list of books on the 2025 Book List that we have available in the St. Paul's library. We also have *Response* Magazines available.

- *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith
- *The Lucky Ones* by Linda Williams Jackson
- *Bookwoman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson
- *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder
- *Until Someone Listens* by Estela Juarez
- *A Right Worthy Woman* by Ruth P. Watson
- *The Making of Biblical Womanhood* by Beth Allison Barr
- *All You Can Ever Know* by Nicole Chung
- *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama
- *Grandpa's Window* by Laura Gehl
- *Solito* by Javier Zamora
- *Our Missing Hearts* by Celest Ng
- *The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton
- *The Women of the Bible* by Shannon Bream
- *The Gift of the Unexpected* by Jillian Benfield
- *The Little Book of Joy* by Dalai Lama

Check them out!

Contact Pat Klos in the church library for more information. Turn in your book log to Diane Donoghue by September 1.

Mission Highlights 2024

Mission Accomplishments

As chair of Missions Council, it is my pleasure to share this list of accomplishments at St. Paul's in 2024:

- We accomplished our MC 2024 goal of raising \$20,000 for Lighthouse to refurbish bathrooms in the family shelter to make them wheelchair accessible.
- We made cash donations to our Missions Designated Giving accounts (RANH, Baldwin, Cass Community Services & MCHS) totaling \$11,500.
- We delivered over 2,874 pounds of food and personal care products to Rochester Area Neighborhood House Food Pantry.
- Thanks to two Night of 1,000 Blessings we donated:
 - 48 Hygiene Kits, 29 Cleaning Bucket Kits and 25 Children's Activity Kits for the Lighthouse Family Shelter
 - 356 Cookies for First Responders
 - 128 Placemats for Meals on Wheels
 - 48 Pillowcases for Service men and women who are currently stationed
 - 206 Butterflies for Mental Health Advocacy Day in Lansing
 - 650 Cereal Boxes (483 pounds) for the Food Pantry
 - 150 Birthday kits to RANH
 - 100 Placemats for Meals on Wheels
 - 38 letters to veterans/1st responders
 - 104 cards for Christmas (gift card) baskets
 - 48 hygiene kits for Baldwin
 - 17 thank you cards with ChapStick for sheriff's deputies
 - 300 cookies for retirement communities
- We donated \$8,150 for Henri Dennis School Scholarships.
- We donated 87 Blankets to Cass thanks to Blanket Palooza.
- We delivered 233 winter coats to Baldwin Center.
- We collected life-saving units of blood products for the Red Cross.
- We grew, harvested, and donated over 200 pounds of fresh vegetables from our community garden.
- We donated \$11,825 in Holiday Market Gift Certificates.

This partial list does not include the many contributions made by:

- United Women in Faith, HUGS Mothers Group, Quilt Ministry, St. Paul's Youth Group, Children's Ministry, FISH & Sunday School Classes

St. Paul's stands out as a beacon for its mission activities. It is my honor to serve as Mission Chair and I thank you all for your support and prayers.

John Kelly
Mission Chair

Christmas Basket Project

St. Paul's distributed Hollywood Market gift certificates to 100 families in the Rochester area. Each gift included a Christmas card created by our Sunday School kids and a letter of introduction about St. Paul's, and the gift certificate. **Your generosity made all this possible.**



Warm Coats for Baldwin

In the past 13 years, the generous congregation of St. Paul's has donated approximately 2600 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 help continue this St. Paul's tradition by shopping the post-holiday sales and purchasing coats for next year's store. All sizes, toddler through adult, are needed. Cash donations are also accepted. Please write "Coats for Baldwin" on the memo line of your check or donate online by scanning the QR code and selecting 'Coats for Baldwin' on the drop-down menu.



Drop off donations in the Narthex February 2 - 23. Contact Roxanne Cleveland at 248-371-0382 with questions.
Thank you for helping us make a difference in our local community.

All Together in Church

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



Meet & Eat

Wednesday, January 15
6:30 p.m. at Miguel's Cantina
870 S. Rochester Rd. RH

All HS 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; Dinner \$5

Jan 5 No Youth Group
Jan 12 Blanket Palooza - bring a fleece blanket kit or two 6'x6' pieces of fleece, we will also have kits available onsite
Jan 19 YouLead, Youth Potluck - Bring a dish to pass
Jan 26 Sledding - weather permitting (Dress appropriately and bring a sled)

HS Youth Group

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

Jan 5 No Youth Group
Jan 12 Blanket Palooza - bring a fleece blanket kit or two 6'x6' pieces of fleece, we will also have kits available onsite
Jan 19 YouLead, Youth Potluck - Bring a dish to pass
Jan 26 Sledding - weather permitting (Dress appropriately and bring a sled)

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!



St. Paul's Preschool Corner

A Word from our Director

The Christmas season was truly magical for our preschoolers! They crafted beautiful decorations, made thoughtful presents for mom and dad, and enjoyed a variety of fun activities. It was heartwarming to hear the little ones share their wishes for what mommy and daddy might want for Christmas. The handmade gifts they created for their parents were a true display of love and thoughtfulness.

The highlight of the month was our Christmas program. The preschoolers' performances were nothing short of delightful, filling our hearts with Christmas spirit. Their sweet voices and joyful energy reminded us all of the true meaning of the season.

As we head into winter, we are excited to continue celebrating with fun, snowy activities. We look forward to creating even more cherished memories with our little ones in the months ahead!

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





St. Paul's Preschool Registration for Fall 2025

Parent & Me for 2's: W 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 certified 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.

Registration for St. Paul's members and returning families opens January 6.

Registration for NEW Families begins February 1.

Applications available online at stpaulsrochester.org/preschool.



Holy Communion

January 5 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, January 12

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

Stop by to have your blood pressure checked.



Upcoming Baptism Dates

January 12 & May 11

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. Please contact the office at 248-651-9361 to schedule.



Save the Date

Made in Michigan

Sunday, February 2

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

Celebrate all things Made in Michigan! Enjoy gathering for a potluck meal with other Michigan food favorites. Wear apparel from your favorite Michigan university, school, or business. Paint Creek for the Arts will provide a 'make and take' art project. We'll also feature music from Michigan artists. Sponsored by the Membership Committee.



Blood Drive

Monday, January 13

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').

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

The Open Door Service
9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Traditional Service
11 a.m. in Sanctuary

5 Epiphany • Communion • St. Paul's at the Movies

Matthew 2:1-12 'Mary' - A Courageous New Way Rev. Dulworth

12 Baptism • United Women in Faith Sunday

Isaiah 43:1-7 'Mufasa: The Lion King' - A New Life Rev. May

19 Isaiah 62:1-5 'Wicked (2024)' - A New Understanding Rev. Dulworth

26 Luke 4:14-21 'Moana 2' - A New Calling Rev. Kress

SERMON SERIES January

Looking Ahead... February

- 1st UMM Breakfast
- Support for Caregivers Group
- 2nd Made in Michigan
- 10th Blood Drive
- 16th HITH Concert
- Fabiola Kim & Amy i-Lin Chen
- 18th J.O.Y. - Just Older Youth
- 19th Early Bird Men's Group
- 20th SPARK Book Group
- UWF Book Club
- 23rd Night of Encouragement