

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

February 2025



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

February 2025

Pastor's Message

Relationships, Compassion, Reconnecting with God

As the cold, brisk winds of January begin to subside and we await the burrowing groundhog to peak out from its den without a sighting of a scary shadow, February provides a perfect opportunity for us to focus on relationships with those that we love, compassion for our neighbors in need, and reconnecting with God. While we wait for a Lions Superbowl win, I hope you will invite a friend to join us for Made in Michigan on Sunday, February 2, following both of our worship services.



Speaking of worship, this month we will be exploring the stories of several lesser-known women of the Old Testament. From two Hebrew midwives who defy Pharaoh's decree to a royal scandal fit for the best of tabloids, we will look at the acts of courage of five women who are woven into the tapestry of God's redemption story for our world. Their resilience in the face of injustice continues to be an inspiration and faithful witness for us to this very day.

Whatever the groundhog may do, we won't be running back into the burrow this February. Instead, we'll be inviting others to join us on this beautiful journey of faith that we share together in Jesus Christ. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Blessings,

Elbert Dulworth

Senior Pastor



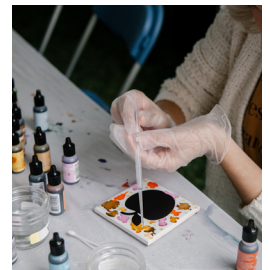
Made in Michigan

Sunday, February 2

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

Join us for a great time as we celebrate all things Made in Michigan!

- **Enjoy Michigan Food Favorites:**
10:30 a.m.- Noon Brunch food
Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch food
- **Wear Michigan Apparel** from your favorite sports team, Michigan school, or business.
- **Meet artists from St Paul's**
Demonstrations and Make & Takes
- **Michigan Trivia Game**
- **Made in Michigan Make & Take Craft**
Make an alcohol ink drop coaster with craft provided by the Paint Creek Center for the Arts.



PCA | PAINT CREEK
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Sponsored by the Membership Committee.



February is the month of LOVE.

We love having you with us at St. Paul's and we love sharing God's love together.

We have wonderful opportunities for you to get involved in 2025 including our upcoming Made in Michigan, numerous bible studies and groups, inspiring music, weekly Sunday school and youth group, exciting mission experiences, and many ways to worship at St. Paul's. We hope you will grab a friend and join us as we live and love like Jesus in 2025.



NEW!

First Responder Ministry Informational Meeting

Monday, February 3

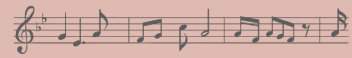
6:30 p.m. in the Parlor & Zoom

We are so pleased to announce that St. Paul's will be developing a First Responder Ministry to serve those in our community who serve us.

Please contact Rachel Henry if you are interested in helping with the planning or would like to volunteer for scheduled events for this new ministry.

RSVP for the meeting or get more information by contacting Rachel at rachel@stpaulsrochester.org. We will have a Zoom link available for those who cannot attend the meeting in person. See the February 3 calendar entry at stpaulsrochester.org for the link.

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Fabiola Kim & Amy I-Lin Cheng

Sunday, February 16; 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Harmony in the Hills Concert Series is delighted to present internationally renowned artists, Fabiola Kim on violin, and Amy I-Lin Cheng on piano, for the first concert of 2025.

These two faculty members of the University of Michigan have delighted both critics and audiences as soloists for many years. It will be a treat to hear them combine their talents, creating music that will delight the senses. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.



Altar Flowers

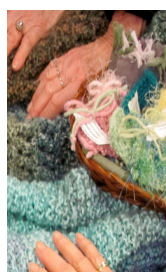
Through your generous support, the sponsorship of altar flowers at St. Paul's has remained a loving tradition and a beautiful part of our worship experience. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please contact Linda Jeffries at 248-651-9361 or sign up Sunday at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

Classes & Groups

Cancer Support Group

Tuesdays, January 28 – March 11
7 p.m. in Room 128-129

This non-denominational support group is open to the community for cancer survivors, both those going through treatment now or in the past, as well as for family members, friends and caregivers. We would love to have you join us for as many of these meetings as you can make during the session. Each meeting includes a speaker on various topics followed by sharing time. The support and growth experienced in these groups is invaluable and amazing. For more information, call the church office at 248-651-9361.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday February 11
1-2:30 p.m. in Room 132

Join us! All are welcome for any needle crafts to share work and enjoy the company of others. Contact Donna Heflin at 248-505-6413 or Heflin.donnaj@gmail.com with questions.



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, February 18; 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!



Seeker's Study

Mondays through February 17
1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Parlor & Zoom

We continue our study of Paul W. Chilcote's book, **The Fullest Possible Love, Living in Harmony with God and Neighbor.** Explore with us the new and age-old ways of practicing our faith!



Women's LIFE Friday

Fridays, through February 21
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor & Zoom

Continuing our study of **Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit.** 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.

United Methodist

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 8
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, February 11
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, February 20
1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we discuss *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett. **We welcome new members!** If you have questions, call Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

UWF Book Club

Thursday, February 20
6 p.m. in Room 132



Join our stimulating discussion of *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times* by Michelle Obama. We meet monthly on the third Thursday and our books and reading certificates come from the United Women in Faith Reading Program. All the books are available in our church library. Contact Nancy Shannon at nancgs@aol.com with questions.



HUGS

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

Feb 5 Crucial Conversations Here's your chance to let us know what's on your mind. Maybe it relates to your role as a mom, parenting challenges, or school questions. Or perhaps you have a great idea for a new program at St Paul's or a HUGS presentation you'd like us to cover later this spring.

Feb 12 It's Galentine's Day

Celebrate our friendships with coffee, great conversation and a few treats. Whether you're a regular attender or first timer, today is a perfect day to uplift each other.

LUNCH BUNCH 11:30 - 12:30 Bring one ingredient to include in a potluck salad. We always have extra, so come even if you forget your ingredient!

Feb 19 & 26 New Study Each week will have an independent topic. We'll share details on Facebook and email.

Girls Night Out, In OFF CAMPUS Can't make it for a daytime event? We're planning an event for some fellowship in the evening. Stay tuned to Facebook or Instagram for the date!

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
February Circle Meetings

- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, February 12 at 1 p.m. in the Library.
- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, February 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, February 13 at 7p.m. in the Parlor

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



Mission Pin Recipients



Recognized at 11 a.m.: Sigrid Grace, Betsy Fisch, Ron Fisch

Wendell Creps was unable to attend and received his mission pin at home.



United Women in Faith Mission Pin Recipients

Each year, St. Paul's United Women in Faith recognize dedicated individuals for outstanding service. On Sunday, January 12, **Wendell Creps, Betsy Fisch, Ron Fisch and Sigrid Grace** were recognized for their dedicated service in 2024 to St. Paul's and to the UWF mission work.



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.



Mission Challenge 2025

Sponsor 100 Students at Henri Dennis School in Liberia

The Mission 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.



St. Paul's
PRESCHOOL
stpaulsrochester.org/preschool

St. Paul's Preschool Corner

A Word from our Director

Our preschoolers have been having a wonderful time engaging in a variety of fun winter activities in the classroom. This month, our lessons have centered around snow, polar animals, and snowmen, sparking curiosity and creativity among the children.

We also had a fantastic January field trip to Rochester Play, where the kids enjoyed spending the morning with their preschool friends. It was a delightful experience filled with laughter and exploration!

Looking ahead, we're excited to celebrate Valentine's Day with our friends this month. It promises to be a joyous occasion filled with friendship and fun!

We want to remind you that we are currently enrolling for the 2025-2026 school year. If you or anyone you know is interested in our preschool program, please don't hesitate to reach out. We would love the opportunity to show you around and share all the amazing activities we offer. Please visit stpaulsrochester.org/preschool/ for more information.

Thank you for your continued support!

Warm regards,
Michelle Staarmann



Meet & Eat

Tuesday, February 11

6:30 p.m. at Lucky's Prime Time
1330 Walton Blvd. RH

All HS youth are invited for a FREE dinner out. Bring friends and a big appetite.

Youth Music Program

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

The Youth Musicians are starting up again! We are preparing a solemn and moving song for the youth-led Ash Wednesday service. There are opportunities for soloists. Watch at youtube.be/yNqmpQPp-ns.

Let's get a large group together!

The Children's Choir continues to meet Sundays at 5:15 p.m. in the Choir Room.

MS Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. Hickey Hall; Dinner \$5

Feb 2 God = Love

Feb 9 No Youth Group - Superbowl

Feb 16 No Youth Group - Winter break

Feb 23 YouLead - Ash Wednesday Prep



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

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. Lounge (meet in Hickey Hall) Dinner \$5

Feb 2 God = Love

Feb 9 No Youth Group - Superbowl

Feb 16 No Youth Group - Winter break

Feb 23 YouLead - Ash Wednesday Prep

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!

Red Bird Mission Youth
Worktrip Fundraiser

Gourmet Pretzel Sale

Sunday, February 9

10 - 11 a.m. Hickey Hallway

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

Stop by Sunday morning for some delicious homemade chocolate covered pretzels. These will make great Valentine Day gifts or party favors for the Super Bowl.

Thank you for your support!



Scholarships Available Application Deadline is April 15

Applications and information available at stpaulsrochester.org.
(Follow 'Scholarship' quick link at bottom of homepage).

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.



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 \$500 will be available for higher education and \$250 for summer camp.

Don't wait until the last minute! Start your application now!





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 in NOW OPEN.

Registration for NEW Families begins February 1.

Applications available online at stpaulsrochester.org/preschool.



Upcoming Baptism

March 16, May 11 & September 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.

Holy Communion



February 2
 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 Pressure Clinic

Sunday, February 9
 10:30 - 11 a.m. & 12 - 12:30 p.m.
 Narthex

Stop by to have your blood pressure checked.



Blood Drive

Monday, February 10
 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

2 Communion • Made in Michigan

2 Sam. 11:1-27 Bathsheba: A Story of Unexpected Grace Rev. Dulworth

9 Ex. 1:9-22 Shiphrah & Puah: Living Out Holy Resistance Rev. May

16 Genesis 38:13-19 Tamar: In Pursuit of Justice Rev. Dulworth

23 Joshua 2:1-7 Rahab: The Scarlet Cord Rev. Kress

SERMON SERIES February

Looking Ahead... March

1st Support for Caregivers Group
 5th Ash Wednesday
 8th UMM Breakfast
 14th HITH Lenten Concert
 16th Night of 1000 Blessings
 17th Blood Drive
 18th J.O.Y. - Just Older Youth
 19th Early Bird Men's Group
 20th SPARK Book Group
 UWF Book Club
 21st HITH Lenten Concert
 28th HITH Lenten Concert