

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

March 2025



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

March 2025

Lenten Journey Begins

As March approaches, our Lenten journey begins a little later this year. The United Women in Faith usher in Lent with the Lenten Prayer Service on Wednesday, March 5 at 10 a.m. in Rickard Chapel. Later that day our youth will lead us in the Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



We begin a new sermon series on March 9 as we wander through this wilderness season with Jesus. The wilderness can often feel lonely and it's easy to feel lost when we're walking through it day by day, uncertain of where we'll arrive at the end. We'll approach the journey with our Wilderness Wonderings and dig deep to discover the God who is with us even in the wilderness.

On Sunday, March 16, you'll want to make sure to join us for our next Night of 1,000 Blessings, from 5 - 6:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall, where we'll gather with people of all ages to prepare over 1,000 blessings by providing lunch bags to feed the hungry through Baldwin Center. See more information about the items needed on page 6.

Our Lenten pilgrimage is going to be transformational for us at St. Paul's as well as for the world around us. This is a wonderful time to join us for worship, to step into a Lenten study group to nourish your own soul, and to connect with one of our many opportunities to reach out to care for someone else. At St. Paul's, we're inspiring people to live and love like Jesus each and every day. Whether you're giving something up for Lent or adding something important like a time of prayer or study, we'll give witness to Jesus who was lifted up for the world to see that we might have life.

Blessings on the journey,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, March 5

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday is the official beginning of our Lenten journey as we find ourselves in the dust and ashes. Marking ourselves with ashes in the sign of the cross reminds us that we have been made from the sacred dust of the earth and the life we have is by God's grace. On this holy day, the Church returns to our humble beginnings. Confessing our sin and our need for God's grace, we renew our commitment to God and one another on a journey that will bring us to the cross, the sealed tomb, and the joy of Easter morning. Join our youth this year at this beautiful service as they lead us with music, prayers, inspirational words, Holy communion, and the imposition of ashes.



Lenten Study

The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels

Fisch Small Group

Tues., Mar 4 - Apr 8

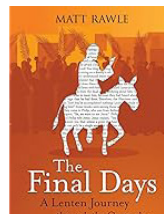
7:30 p.m. in Room 132

Swisher Small Group

Tues., Mar 11 - Apr 15

7:30 p.m. on Zoom

(Email to get Zoom link
swisher1770@gmail.com)



Have you ever noticed that the story of Jesus' final days is told differently by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John? You may even wonder at times if it's even the same story. Yet, each story points to the same resurrection hope. This Lent reflect on Jesus' passion through the lens of each Gospel writer in Matt Rawle's book, **The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels**. We'll discover how these diverse stories help to complement one another and give us a deeper understanding of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Available on Amplify Media.

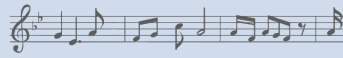
A Word from Sunday School Students

Our children are learning so much about their faith each week during Sunday school. Recently, we asked "What is church?" See their inspiring answers:

like a second home • fun • family • quiet
place of worship • where we learn good choices
it helps people through hard times • to serve God
May it be so. Thank you, for supporting our children.

With love,
Miss Amy

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Lenten Concert Series Fridays at Noon in the Sanctuary

Add something special to your Lenten Fridays by attending these 30-minute concerts. Free admission.



March 14
Tim Michling
oboe & bagpipes



March 21
Wendy Chu
piano



March 28
Eun Park Lee
violin



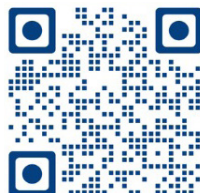
April 4
Juan Riveros
harp



Rochester Community Concert Band

Tuesday, March 4
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

St. Paul's is hosting the next performance of the Rochester Community Concert Band. Come hear Albanian Dances, Scottish Dances, My Fair Lady, Fandango, Jitterbug, and other great works. Four of our Wesley Ringers are in the band. Admission is free although donations are gratefully accepted.



Did you know?

What are Ministry Shares?

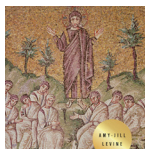
Ministry Shares, or "apportionments," represent apportioned financial contributions of every local United Methodist Church to support ministries throughout our worldwide connections. They are "a portion meant" for sharing in ministries with others beyond those that get our direct local support. Leveraging connections and partnerships within and beyond The United Methodist Church, we can transform communities and open doors for children to a more promising future around the world. Through our ministry shares to the World Service Fund we envision the people called United Methodists engaging in at least 400 partnerships that focus on ministry with poor people and communities. In 2024, St. Paul's fulfilled 100% of our apportioned ministry shares and we're hoping to do so again this year. Your generosity helps to make possible life-transforming ministries in our area and across the world. Find out more at umcsgiving.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.



SERMON on
the MOUNT
A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Women's LIFE Friday

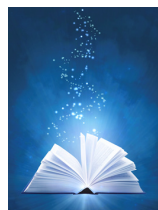
Fridays March 7 - April 11

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

Join us at 9:15 a.m. for social time

Leaders: Nancy Fidler & Susan Sonye

This Lent we invite you to join us as we focus in on The Gospel of Matthew, chapters 5-7, with one of this group's favorite authors, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. We'll be digging into the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer and many other familiar passages. The book is optional, but we encourage participants to read the Bible passages. Discussions will be based on Amplify Media videos shown in class. For more information or to order a book (\$17) contact Nancy Fidler at 248-933-1981.



Seeker's Study

Mondays, March 10 - April 14

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

All are welcome to join the study of **Parables...Putting Jesus' Stories in Their Place**. When Jesus taught in parables, he was doing more than telling simple

morality stories. They were grounded in the world in which he lived and his vision of God's kingdom. Josh Scott invites us to give these stories a fresh hearing in their own context and how we may meet God through them in our own time. Order books at Cokesbury or your favorite book seller. Contact Judy May at 586-242-1555.



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, March 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.**



Early Bird Men's Group

Wednesday, March 19; 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.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 1

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, March 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, March 20

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. **We welcome new members!** If you have questions, call Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

UWF Book Club

Thursday, March 20

6 p.m. in Room 132



Join our stimulating discussion of *Bookwoman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson. 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

Mar 5 UWF Lenten Prayer Service

10 a.m. in Rickard Chapel We will join the UWF as we prepare for Easter. See additional information to the right.

Mar 12 Jazzercise: Kindness Moves Moms 9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Kristi Morse, St. Paul Preschool teacher and Jazzercise Instructor, will lead a 45 minute class designed for all fitness levels as part of the Great Kindness Challenge. It is a dance-based cardio, strength training and stretching class. No fee, but if you want to embrace the kindness theme, bring a book for Charlotte's Wings. Bring a friend!

Mar 19 March Madness

Basketball is the sport of the moment. What happens when you combine your love of basketball and our goal of changing our world view to a Word view? A bracket of Biblical passages vying for the top spot in the HUGS bracket and the promise of guiding our studies for next year! Find out what is on the horizon for us. **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!

Mar 26 No HUGS Spring Break

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
March Circle Meetings

- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, March 12 at 1 p.m. in the Library.
- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, March 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor; Maxine McClure & outreach missions
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, March 13 at 7p.m. in the Parlor

Exec. Board Meeting: Thursday, April 17; 9:30 a.m. in Room 132



Hosted by the United Women in Faith

Lenten Prayer Service

Wednesday, March 5

10 a.m. in Rickard Chapel

Please join us for a time of peaceful prayer and reflection. Rev. Judy May and Rev. Jean Snyder will lead a Taizé service of scripture, prayer and silence. Susan Clark Joul will provide music. We will write down our individual prayer requests to pray over together so we can praise God and lift up our concerns to Jesus.
Come and be refreshed.



HUGS Monthly Mission

Charlotte's Wings

Due to overwhelming popularity, we have decided to extend our mission to collect NEW books for Charlotte's Wings to be given to ailing children in hospitals and hospice care for the remainder of the year! We've collected just under 100 books throughout the fall, so we thought it would be great to exceed 100 books for the year.



"By giving books, Charlotte's Wings endeavors to bring sick children a smile, a dream, or an escape from an unfortunate reality. Whether a child is facing something as benign as tonsillitis or as severe as a terminal disease, a book can provide encouragement and comfort to a sick child during a challenging and frightening period."

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/



NIGHT of 1,000 BLESSINGS Sunday, March 16; 5 - 6:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Join us as we prepare 1,000 blessings in one night to give witness to God's great love. This year we will pack 1000 lunch bags for Baldwin Center and share a light supper. **This is a great mission opportunity for families!**

We are asking for donations of chips/snacks, cookies, napkins and paper bags. Baldwin Center will add fresh sandwiches when the bags are handed out. Please go to the **Signup Genius** by scanning the **QR code** to see what is needed. **Drop off all donations by March 11** to the church office (M-Th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or to the Welcome Center during Sunday worship at 9:30 or 11 a.m.



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 Corner

A Word from our Director

February was a wonderful month filled with exciting activities at our preschool! We had a delightful time celebrating Valentine's Day, where we witnessed such kindness and friendship among our preschool friends. It's heartwarming to see our little ones learn and grow together.



We're also thrilled to have our music teacher visiting every other week, bringing joy and rhythm to our classroom. Additionally, the Big Blue Bus from the Rochester Library has been making regular visits, providing our children with access to a world of stories and learning.

A special thank you to the Kids Grins dentist office for coming in and sharing important information about dental health. Our children enjoyed learning how to take care of their teeth!

As we look ahead, we want to remind you that we are now registering for the 2025-2026 school year. We still have a few openings available, so please spread the word to your friends and neighbors!

Warm regards,
Michelle Staarmann



MS Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends
Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. Hickey Hall; Dinner \$5

Mar 2 Ash Wednesday Prep
Mar 9 Spring into Action
Mar 16 Night of 1000 Blessings
Mar 23 & 30 No Youth Group



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

Mar 2 Ash Wednesday Prep
Mar 9 Spring Fever
Mar 16 Night of 1000 Blessings
Mar 23 & 30 No Youth Group

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!

Worktrip Parent and Student Meeting

Sunday, March 2
5 p.m. in Hickey Hall

We will have a brief meeting to discuss our summer trip to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY. Please note: \$200 payment is due.

Meet & Eat

Thursday, March 13
6:30 p.m. at Oceania Inn
37 Livernois, Rochester Hills

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



Looking ahead to Easter

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 20; 7:30 a.m. outdoors under Sanctuary portico

We are looking for students to do a special reading at the Easter Sunrise Service. If you would like to participate in this service, email Jodi at Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org.

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 is NOW OPEN for Fall 2025.

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.



Orders due April 1 • Easter is April 20

Easter Lily Orders

Help decorate the church and memorialize or honor loved ones by purchasing an Easter lily. After services on Easter, 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. **Lilies are \$15 each.**

Holy Communion



March 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, March 9

10:30 - 11 a.m. & 12 - 12:30 p.m.

Narthex

Stop by to have your blood pressure checked.



Blood Drive

Monday, March 17

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 •

Luke 9:28-43a Between Two Mountains Rev. Dulworth

9 First Sunday in Lent

Luke 4:1-13 Whose Voice is Loudest? Rev. Dulworth

16 Second Sunday in Lent • Baptism

Luke 13:31-35 How Do You Herd Chickens? Rev. May

23 Third Sunday in Lent •

Luke 13:1-9 How Much Manure is Enough? Rev. Dulworth

30 Fourth Sunday in Lent • UMCOR Sunday

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Does Prodigal Mean "Lost"? Rev. Kress

SERMON SERIES March

Looking Ahead... April

- 4th** HITH Lenten Concert
- 5th** UMM Breakfast
- Support for Caregivers Group
- 13th** Palm Sunday - Egg Hunt
- That Takes the Cake Sale
- 15th** JOY - Just Older Youth
- 17th** SPARK Book Group
- UWF Book Club Holy
- Thursday Service
- 18th** Good Friday Tenebrae Service
- 20th** Easter 7:30, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
- 27st** Ingathering Meal