

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

April 2025



St. Paul's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rochester, Michigan

April 2025

Transforming St. Paul's

While March came in like a lion with a stampeding snowstorm, I noticed the barren branches of a burning bush at the side of our home. The closer I got to the bush, however, I could begin to see the tiny buds that would once again become leaves. Even amid winter's snowfall, God was sharing a sign of new life. Before you know it, Easter lilies will blossom once more as trumpets announcing the joy of resurrection and new life.

As we journey through this Lenten season, we know that God is at work bringing new life to us as well. Empowered by a strong vision for our future in our strategic plan, we're launching **Transforming St. Paul's**, a three-year capital campaign to raise \$1.5 million dollars so that we might restore key systems and infrastructure in our aging facility, renew spaces and technology across our campus that will make us more welcoming and empower us for ministry in this digital age, as well as upgrade our capacity reach out to more people for Jesus Christ.

Over the past several years, the maintenance costs on much of our aging infrastructure have increased significantly in our budget and siphoned away vital ministry dollars for programming that impacts people's lives and helps us to grow. At the same time, our building is our greatest tool for ministry in this community as people are gathered and sent out into our world to inspire others to live and love like Jesus. Now is the time for us to prepare this space for the generations who will follow us as others have done before us.

Transforming St. Paul's, however, is not simply a campaign about restoring infrastructure, renewing spaces in our building, updating technology, or even reaching out to the lives of those who are impacted by our ministries. **Transforming St. Paul's** is about what God will do to transform us as a people of God on this journey. On our Lenten journey, we make our way towards the cross and tomb trusting that God will bring new life and resurrection. In this season of St. Paul's, let us join in asking God, "What do you want to do through me?" You can find out more on our website by scanning the QR code.



Most importantly, don't forget to join us throughout this holy season as we follow Jesus on his journey as well and remember what God did on that first Easter. May the buds of hope that are resurrection and new life continue to spring forth in us in these days that are to come that Jesus might be glorified among us!

Easter Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday April 13

9:30 a.m. Open Door Worship in Hickey Hall & Livestream
10:30 a.m. Egg Hunt on South lawn near playground
11 a.m. Traditional Worship in Sanctuary & Livestream

Holy Thursday April 17

7 p.m. Worship in Hickey Hall

Good Friday April 18

7 p.m. Tenebrae in Sanctuary - Mozart's *Requiem* featuring St. Paul's choir, Rochester Christian University Choral Union & orchestra

Easter Sunday April 20

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service under the Portico
9:30 a.m. Open Door Worship in Hickey Hall
11 a.m. Traditional Worship in Sanctuary with brass quintet and choirs



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 28 Eun Park Lee, violin

April 4 Juan Riveros, harp

Tenebrae Service

Good Friday, April 18

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Observe Good Friday by attending this moving Tenebrae service featuring St. Paul's choir and orchestra with Rochester Christian University Choral Union performing Mozart's *Requiem*.



Palm Sunday April 13 at 9:30 & 11 a.m.

Palm Sunday worship will feature palm parades and a chance to visit the donkey during Sunday school.



For children 5th grade and younger

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 13

10:30 a.m. on South Lawn near playground

Join the fun and hunt for candy filled eggs! We will have separate outdoor areas for different age groups.

Collecting bags will be provided for all hunters. Dress for the weather because we will hunt rain, shine or snow.



Easter Dove Release

Easter Sunday, April 20

10:40 a.m. in North Parking Lot

All are welcome to join us for a live dove release on Easter. We'll begin with an Easter blessing followed by the dove release which symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning. See the beauty of white doves as they are released and make their way back home to Novi.

Prayer Vigil and Service

Saturday, April 5 in Rickard Chapel

Vigil 8 - 11:30 a.m. Service 11:30 a.m.

The St. Paul's Prayer Team invites you to participate in a Prayer Vigil to individually pray, meditate, and seek God. Come at any time, stay as long as you like, no sign up needed. At the end of the vigil will be a Prayer Service; a special time of prayer, singing, and reflection as a group.

Join us for a time of spiritual growth.



Holy Thursday

Thursday, April 17

7 p.m. in Hickey Hall.

Join us for an impactful Holy Thursday worship service featuring interactive stations:

communion, prayer at the cross, anointing, and the opportunity to plant a seed symbolizing the death of Jesus on Good Friday. **All are welcome.**

We're Having a Party!

Celebrate St. Paul's!

Sunday, April 27 in Hickey Hall

Brunch: 10:30 a.m.

Lunch: 12 p.m.

Celebrate Generosity Sunday with a church-wide celebration and announcement of Capital Campaign Advance Commitment results.

Great Food • St. Paul's Trivia Game

Music • Photo Booth

Make & Take Polymer Clay Butterfly



Classes & Groups



NEW Program for 2025 Neighborhood House Easter Basket Program

Neighborhood House is reimagining the Easter Wish Basket program, giving parents the opportunity to Build-A-Basket for their child(ren). RANH is excited to bring this to client neighbors and ask you to be a part of

this program of neighbors helping neighbors. This gift registry can be used to build up our Easter Basket item inventory ready for our shopping days on April 15 and 16. Please donate by scanning the QR code and purchase items online and have them shipped to Neighborhood House at 1720 South Livernois, Rochester Hills.



St. Paul's Garden Club

Wednesday, April 9

9 a.m. - noon in the Garden of Hope

Gardeners are invited to spring into action to rejuvenate the urns, prune, and revitalize the roses. Gardeners of all abilities are welcome as we share our knowledge and friendship. Bring your own tools, gloves, and water bottles.

For more information contact Sigrid Grace at sigridorchard@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead - Email by April 28

Learning to Walk with God - 2025

Thursdays, May 1 - August 28

9 - 10 a.m. Rochester Municipal Park and other locations for variety

Connect with your physical and spiritual fitness and well-being. Walk with us for physical exercise, socializing, and a spiritual component that gives everyone thoughts to ponder about how to better follow in Jesus' footsteps. Discuss and reflect upon the meaning of inspiring art work, Christian prose and poetry and how scripture compliments the message. We also track our steps and play games with a Christian twist to keep it fun! All ability levels are welcome. When walking in Rochester, park near the Police Station. **Please email walking coordinator Judy Smouter at smouterj@comcast.net by April 28** if you plan to participate.



United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 5
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.

Early Bird Men's Group

Wednesday, April 16

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.



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, April 17

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we discuss *Beyond That The Sea* by Laura Spence-Ash. **We welcome new members!** If you have questions, call Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

UWF Book Club

Thursday, April 17
6 p.m. in Room 132



Join our stimulating discussion of *The Gift of the Unexpected: Discovering Who You Were Meant to be When Life Goes Off Plan* by Jillian Benfield. The author addresses how the life-altering diagnosis of her unborn child changed her. 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

Apr 2 March Madness in April

Spring Break intervened, so we're narrowing down our Bible Verses to see which one is the ultimate victor. Find out what exciting things are on the horizon for us as we narrow the field.

Apr 9 Spring Fever - Game Day 2.0

We are bring back Game Day for everyone who had the January flu bugs! Feel free to bring your favorite card or board game and a snack to share.

Apr 16 Mugs & HUGS OFF Campus

Green Cup Café 896 S Rochester Rd. RH
The perfect way to unwind and reflect during a busy Easter week. Pop over between 10 & 11 a.m. Kids are welcome! You are welcome whether this is the first time at to HUGS or you are a seasoned veteran!

Apr 23 The Mom Project by Kathy Lipp

Practical ways to create closer connections to our kids and find ways to understand, enjoy, and learn more about them. Small efforts can make a big difference and offer a workable plan that won't overwhelm an already busy family!

Apr 30 The Mom Project

We learn different tips that will result in making quality family time a priority.

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

April Circle Meetings

- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, April 9 at 1 p.m. in the Library
- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, April 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor; Jodi Stuermer, Youth Director
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, April 10 at 7 p.m. in the Parlor

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



Hosted by the United Women in Faith That Takes the Cake Sale

Sunday, April 13
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Narthex

Homemade coffee cakes will be for sale. Proceeds support UWF Missions locally and around the world. **Drop off coffee cakes Saturday, April 12; 12 - 2 p.m. in the Narthex.** Call Jane Chamberlain at 586-323-2537 to sign up as a baker.



Start cleaning closets!

Spring Rummage Sale

Spring Sale - May 9 & 10

NEW Drop off days and times:

Monday, May 5 from 5 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6 from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Donating Jewelry: Sometimes jewelry gets missed if it is in a regular donation bag. If you want to bring jewelry in early, please leave it in the designated box in the main office. On Sundays, you may leave it in a box at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex or at Open Door. Please share this information with others at church.

Donations for Unique Boutique: If you have designer clothing, purses, scarves, etc. please pack them separately and take donations directly to Rickard Chapel, the new Unique Boutique location.

Can you volunteer? Contact Kathy Lutey at dlutey2@wowway.com.

Scan to Volunteer

Scan to Donate Food



Thank you for your generous support!

Please Remember...

Remember our Older Members

Send a card letting them know that you are remembering them and praying for them. Our older members 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. Rm 212
Cadillac, MI 49601

Ronald & Kathleen Davis
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. Apt 210
Rochester, MI 48307

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

Marguerite Jacob
146 Brewster Rd
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

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

Rev. Dwayne & Ruth Kelsey
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
American House; 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 48309

Gayle Schuman
American House Elmwood
2251 W Auburn Rd. Apt 54
Rochester MI 48309

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

Isabelle Smith
3434 South Blvd. Apt 139
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

George & Joyce Staten
6766 Vernmoor Dr
Troy, MI 48098

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

Ethel Waltenbaugh
1206 Churchill Circle
Rochester, MI 48307



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

We kicked off the month of March with our parent-teacher conferences, and it was a joy to share the incredible progress our preschoolers are making! A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful teachers for their dedication and creativity in providing such fun and engaging lessons.

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with lots of laughter as a mischievous leprechaun played tricks and left behind some delightful treats for the children. It's always a joy to see their excitement!

We have only a few spots available for Fall 2025. If you know anyone who might be interested, please spread the word! Thank you for your continued support.

Blessings,
Michelle Staarmann



Palm Sunday

April 13 at 9:30 & 11 a.m.

Palm Sunday worship will feature palm parades and a chance to visit the donkey during Sunday school.



For children 5th grade and younger

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 13

10:30 a.m. South lawn near playground

Join the fun and hunt for candy filled eggs! We will have separate outdoor areas for different age groups. Collecting bags will be provided for all hunters. Dress for the weather because we will hunt rain, shine or snow.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 20

9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

Children will worship with their families on Easter. Children's activities will be available from our ushers and ambassadors but feel free to bring busy bags from home if you would like.



MS Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends

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

Apr 6	Be the Bunny
Apr 13	Spread the Love
Apr 20	No Youth Group, Easter
Apr 27	You Lead
May 4	Last youth group & end of year PARTY off campus



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

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

pr 6	Be the Bunny
Apr 13	Spread the Love
Apr 20	No Youth Group, Easter
Apr 27	You Lead
May 4	Last youth group & end of year PARTY off campus

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!

Meet & Eat

Wednesday, April 9

6:30 p.m. at Golden Eagle

1447 N. Rochester Rd., Rochester

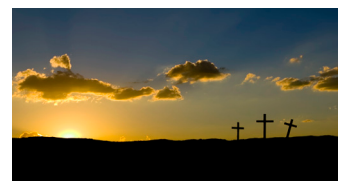
All HS youth are invited for a FREE dinner out. Bring friends and a big appetite.



Easter Sunrise Service

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

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.



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.

The application process for the St. Paul's Scholarship is now **exclusively online**. Paper applications will not be accepted. Scan the QR code to access the online application form.



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.

Application Deadline is April 15 Applications available at stpaulsrochester.org.



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.

Only a Few Spots Available for Fall 2025.

Applications available online at stpaulsrochester.org/preschool.



Upcoming Baptism

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



April 6

**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, April 13

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

Narthex

Stop by to have your blood pressure checked.



Looking Ahead...

May

- 3rd UMM Breakfast
- Support For Caregivers
- 4-10th Rummage Sale Week
- 11th Mother's Day - Baptisms
- Honor Our Mothers
- 12th Blood Drive
- 15th UWF Book Club
- 18th Confirmation
- HITH James Kibbie
- 20th JOY - Just Older Youth
- UWF Spring Dinner
- 21st Early Bird Men's Group
- 22nd Spark Book Group
- 26th Memorial Day - office closed

June

- 7th UMM Breakfast
- Support For Caregivers
- 8th Grad Sunday/Senior Brunch
- 9th Blood Drive
- 11th Concert in the Garden
- Musica Batteria Marimba Duo
- 15th Outdoor Worship begins
- 17th JOY - Just Older Youth
- 19th Spark Book Group
- UWF Book Club
- 22-28th Youth Worktrip

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

The Open Door Service

9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Traditional Service

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

- 6 Communion • Fifth Sunday in Lent
John 12:1-8 Our What...Grounded in Gratitude Rev. Dulworth
- 13 Palm Sunday
Luke 19:28-40 Our Why...The Impact of Ministry Rev. Dulworth
- 20 Easter 7:30 a.m. Sunrise • 9:30 a.m. Open Door • 11 a.m. Traditional
John 20:1-18 God's Great "I Told You So" Rev. Dulworth
- 27 Acts 5:27-32 Our Calling...Shaping Our Future Rev. May

SERMON SERIES April