

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

July/August 2025



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

July/August 2025

Pastor's Message

Summer is upon us!

As our weather warms up, I hope that you are finding time for rest and relaxation. This time of respite and renewal is a wonderful time to get back to the basics. As Gabriel Ervin has been teaching a study on the book of Genesis, we'll get back to the basics with a sermon series in July and August by diving into the Bible. In **Foundations: Glimpses Below the Surface of Genesis**, we'll take a closer look at the Bible's first book by rediscovering a few of the foundational stories of our faith. Some may be remarkably familiar while others may be less so. In any case, we hope you'll join us each Sunday morning when you are in town, either under the portico off the rear entrance at 9:30 for the outdoor Open Door service or at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary for our traditional service. And if you happen to be away, tune in online through our livestream!



On Sunday, July 13, come to hear our youth talk about their experiences on the Red Bird Mission Worktrip during our 11 a.m. service. Vacation Bible School is also coming up soon! Help every child you know register so that they can find their way in world gone wild at **True North VBS**. We also need VBS volunteers to lead children to Jesus, our true north! On page 6, find a QR code to register children and volunteers to be a part of this exciting adventure.

August 17 we're celebrating a blessing of the animals during our outdoor Open Door worship at 9:30 a.m. and on August 24, we're blessing backpacks at both worship services as we prepare our children, parents, and educators for the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year.

Finally, save September 7 on your calendars when we'll be celebrating **SeptemberFEST**. There's plenty to do all summer long here at St. Paul's! We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate together.

Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor

HARMONY IN THE HILLS

Concerts in the Garden

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Garden of Hope
Bring a lawn chair and enjoy great music in the garden. Free admission.

July 9	August 20
Paul Keller Jazz Trio	North Star Saxophone Quartet

In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held indoors.



Garden Club Days of Action

**Wednesdays, July 9, July 23, August 6 & August 20
9 a.m. - noon in Garden of Hope**

Gardeners of all abilities are needed to keep St. Paul's gardens looking their best. Cleaning, weeding, planting, transplanting, trimming, and watering are our main activities to beautify our church grounds. Bring your own hand gardening tools, water bottle, gloves, hat and sunscreen. In addition, volunteers sign up on a weekly watering schedule to help our plants during the summer months. For more information, contact Sigrid Grace at sigridorchard@gmail.com.

Celebrate the animals that make our lives special.



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, August 17; 9:30 a.m. South Lawn at Outdoor Service

All pets are welcome to attend the outdoor worship service on the south lawn under the shade trees and receive a blessing. Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket to sit on. All pets must be crated or leashed. Retractable leashes should be avoided. Bring supplies so you are able to clean up after your own pet, if needed.

Don't have a pet? Children are encouraged to bring a stuffed animal and receive a blessing as well. Bring a picture if your pet cannot attend in person. Invite your friends and family!

There will be a designated 'No Pet Zone' on the grass during the service, so those who prefer to enjoy pets from a distance may do so. **Please note:** This event takes place during the 9:30 a.m. outdoor worship service only. For more information, contact Marilyn Kress at 586-212-9065 or marilyn.kress@gmail.com.



St. Paul's Preschool

Register for Fall 2025

Parent & Me for 2's: F 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 Christian-based, high-quality learning with emphasis on the individuality of each child. Our qualified 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.

Apply at stpaulsrochester.org/preschool.

A Word from the Preschool Director

Happy Summer!

We hope everyone is enjoying a fun and relaxing summer so far. Our preschool teachers are busy preparing for the upcoming school year, with many exciting activities planned to kick things off.

If you are interested in our preschool - or know someone who is - please feel free to email us at preschool@stpaulsrochester.org. I'd be happy to provide more information about our program and schedule a tour.

We look forward to welcoming all of our families at the beginning of September for our Parent Night and Meet the Teacher days!

Enjoy the rest of the summer!
Michelle Staarmann
Preschool Director

Missions, Classes & Groups

Challenge Ends August 31

Mission Challenge 2025

Sponsor 100 Students at Henri Dennis School in Liberia

As of May 31, we have received donations to sponsor 50 students to Henri Dennis School. While this is wonderful, we are only halfway to our goal to sponsor 100 students. Each scholarship is \$180 - can you sponsor one or more students before the end of the challenge on August 31? **Thank you for your support of our mission challenge.**



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.



Neighborhood House Food Pantry

With the help of many community supporters, the Neighborhood House Food Pantry distributes about 200,000 meals annually to local families in need. The Neighborhood House Food Pantry provides not only canned foods, but also dairy, protein, fresh fruits/vegetables, and more.

Food Pantry Wish List

Rochester Area Neighborhood House Food Pantry currently needs: cereal, regular coffee, instant coffee, canned pineapple, chili beans, canned carrots, sloppy Joes, canned olives, chicken Ramen noodles, shampoo. **Please place your donations in the cart in the Narthex or in Hickey Hall.**



St. Paul's Scholarship Fund

This year marks 11 years of the scholarship fund at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Over the past eleven years, the Education Council has awarded 74 college scholarships to students from our congregation, totaling over \$94,000. This year there were nine recipients

who each received a \$1,000 scholarship on June 8. These scholarships have been made possible by the generous donations from members of St. Paul's UMC to the St. Paul's Scholarship Fund.

Make a donation to help fund future scholarships: You can give electronically through the St. Paul's website, stpaulsrochester.org. The QR code will direct you to our giving page where you can designate your gift for the St. Paul's Scholarship Fund. Checks can be written to St. Paul's UMC with 'St. Paul's Scholarship Fund' in the memo line and mailed to 620 Romeo Street, Rochester, MI 48307.



Thank you for helping our youth as they pursue their dreams!



Learning to Walk with God

Thursdays through August 28
9 - 10 a.m. in Rochester Park

Join us and enjoy God's creation, dive into and discuss spiritual readings, socialize, and occasionally play Biblical or nature-based games. Contact leader Judy Smouter at smouterj@comcast.net if you decide to join us to verify details of the upcoming walk. **All ability levels are welcome.**



SPARK Book Group

Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

July 17

James by Percival Everett

August 21

The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd

Join us! We welcome new members! Questions? Please contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

SAVE the DATE!!

RACE TO ST. PAUL'S SeptemberFEST

Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us... Hebrews 12:1c

Sunday, September 7 • 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. • South Parking Lot of St. Paul's
We are kicking off the fall with a Grand Prix style celebration!

- Grand Prix race car onsite
- Kids and teens can sit in the car for photo op
- Grand Prix information booth
- Chamberlain Petting Zoo
- Pony Rides for preschool and elementary children
- Crafts & 'make and takes'
- Brunch foods at 10:30 a.m.
- Lunch foods at noon
- Outdoor games
- Live music throughout
- Meals on Wheels mission project



Serve as a Stephen Minister

When was the last time someone really listened to you?

We're talking about that undistracted, full-attention kind of listening. That's one of the ways Stephen Ministers care for others. We need more Stephen Ministers to care for those who are making that long journey through the

valley of a life crisis. Will you consider serving in this way?

If you are intrigued and wish to learn more, please visit stephenministries.org/stephenministry/default.cfm/1759 for a video of Stephen Ministers talking about their training experience, and answers to frequently asked questions. Then, if you would like more information, contact one of the Stephen Leaders, Rev. Judy May at JMay@stpaulsrochester.org, Nancy Seiter at nlseit@aol.com or Susan Sonye at susansonye@comcast.net.

Training will begin in the fall with a weekly two hour class in the evening and commissioning next April. **We hope to hear from you!**



Women's LIFE Friday

We invite you to join us this fall as we

study **Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple** by Adam Hamilton. Books are not required but can be ordered online. Further details available later.

Navigating Interpersonal Conflicts **Does Life Have To Be So Hard?** Tuesday, September 30 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

St. Paul's Adult Ministries, Health Ministries and Stephen Ministries will host a seminar on navigating interpersonal conflicts. This is a free program that will be open to the public.

Vacation Bible School

July 21 - 25
9 a.m. - noon



Registration Open until July 7
stpaulsrochester.org
All campers & volunteers register online





Worktrip Report

Sunday, July 13

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Please join us as we share our worktrip report and video. Thank you for your prayers and support of this important mission.

Let's Serve! A Chance to Connect this Summer

This summer we have two opportunities for family mission projects:

- **Tuesday, July 15; 6 p.m. at Rochester Municipal Park**
400 Sixth Street, Rochester – meet by duck pond

Gather some backyard rocks, permanent markers, and bring to the park. Plan time to stay and visit/play after we spread a little joy by decorating rocks and placing them around the park.



- **Tuesday, August 19; 11 a.m. at Cranberry Lake Farm**
388 West Predmore Rd. Oakland Twp

Help weed the Storybook Garden that our youth created during their local worktrip in 2021. Bring basic gardening tools and clothes to play in. Consider staying on and taking a hike on their beautiful trails.



All ages welcome! For both events, parent must accompany students middle school & younger.

Church Family Game Night

Wednesday, August 13

6 - 7:30 p.m. Parlor/Rickard Chapel

All ages welcome! Bring your favorite game and snack to share. Parent must accompany middle school students and younger. **Can't wait to see you there!**



Food is good for the soul

Meet and Eat

Thursday, July 24, 6:30 p.m.

Lipuma's Coney Island 621 N. Main St., Rochester

All HS students and youth group alumni welcome plus friends. We will walk to Dairy Queen for dessert after dinner.

Wednesday, August 20; 6:30 p.m.

Rochester Mills, 400 Water St. Rochester

All HS youth and their friends are welcome for a FREE dinner out. Come hungry and ready for a good time! RSVP Jodi at 248-977-9436.



VBS Mission Project

Please help us with our mission project!

Bring in school supplies to the Narthex from July 21 - July 27 to be distributed to our local community through RANH/Assistance League's Blast Off 2 School.

For a list of requested items please see the link in the Connector or our website.

VBS Sunday

Sunday, July 27

11 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Join us as we celebrate with the church family all that we learned in True North VBS about trusting Jesus in a wild world. Wear your VBS t-shirt.

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

9:30 a.m. The Open Door Outdoors (under south canopy)

A casual service in an outdoor setting touching lives with God's love through messages relevant to daily life. The contemporary worship music is led by a worship band. (In Hickey Hall in inclement weather)

11 a.m. Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

This liturgical worship service features mostly classical music, hymns, sermon, and congregational readings. Through engaging and meaning-filled ritual, we give God glory and praise in welcoming community.

Livestream View the worship services Sundays at 9:30 & 11 a.m. on Facebook or YouTube. Links available at stpaulsrochester.org.

July

6	Holy Communion		
	Gen. 1:26-31; 3:1-13	Designed for Good...	Rev. Dulworth
13	Worktrip Report (11 a.m.) • Baptism		
	Colossians 3:23	Love In Action	Worktrip Team
20	Gen. 22:1-14	The Lamb, the Ram, and the Rescue	Gabriel Ervin
27	VBS Sunday - in Hickey Hall		
	Matthew 14:27	True North VBS	Amy Heitman

August

3	Holy Communion		
	Gen. 9:1-17	Sign of the Promise	Rev. Dulworth
10	Gen. 16:1-11	Finding Grace in Our Wilderness	Rev. May
17	Gen. 27:30-40	Who Stole Your Blessing	Rev. Dulworth
24	Gen. 32:22-32	Broken and Blessed	Rev. Kress
31	Gen. 50:15-21	For the Good of Many	Rev. Dulworth



SERMON SERIES July/August

Holy Communion

July 6 & August 3

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.



Upcoming Baptisms

July 13 & 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.



Blood Drive

Monday, July 14
& August 11
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').



Looking Ahead September

1 st	Labor Day - Office Closed
6 th	Men's Breakfast
	Support for Caregivers
7 th	SeptemberFEST & Resume
	Sunday School/Youth Group
8 th	Blood Drive
9 th	UWF Annual Meeting
14 th	Harmony in the Hills Concert
18 th	SPARK Book Group
	UWF Book Club
21 st	Baptism
	Elem. Bible Parent Engagement
29 th	Elementary Bibles
	New Member Class
30 th	Does Life Have to be So Hard?