

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

September 2025



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Pastor's Message

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:1-2, NRSVue

Run the Race As school bells ring and the summer gives way to fall, join us on September 7 as we **Race to St. Paul's for SeptemberFEST**. And why not invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to join you? There's plenty to celebrate and we'll be coming together with food, fun, games, music, pony rides for younger children, a real Grand Prix Indy car on site, and so much more. You won't want to miss out!



Our new sermon series, **The Race of a Lifetime**, also begins in September. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews invites us to think of our faith journey as a race. Throughout this month, we'll be encouraging one another to run a strong race together. What is it that we need along the way? How do we persevere when the going gets tough? What are we racing towards? Should we run alone or with a group? This fall, grow in your faith as disciples of Jesus Christ and share key tips to run the Race of a Lifetime.

As you think about what you need to run the race well, there are plenty of opportunities to join a new study group whether it's a book study or a chance to read through the Bible in the coming year with Disciple Bible Study (Fast Track.) Or perhaps you'll join us for Beer and Hymns at Gus O'Connor's each month. St. Paul's offers plenty of ways to fellowship, grow, and serve together as we run this race of faith with Jesus. So, lace up those running shoes, stretch out those muscles, and let's run surrounded by the faithful who cheer us on. I can't wait to see you soon!

Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor



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!

- Indy car onsite w/ photo ops
- Motor City Irish Dancers
- Live Music with Kristin Snyder & Jack's Revenge
- Live animals from Chamberlin Petting Zoo
- Pony Rides for preschool – elementary age

- Brunch food at 10:30 a.m.
- Lunch food at noon
- Outdoor games
- Booths with crafts & 'make and takes'
- Meals on Wheels mission project



Wondering what's happening with our Transforming St. Paul's projects? Look for us under the tent at SeptemberFEST. We'll have information on projects and we're happy to answer questions.





Music Ministry

Music is the heart of St. Paul's. Our music groups are all very welcoming small groups. New members are welcome without audition.

St. Paul's Choir

**Wednesdays, beginning September 3
7 - 8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room**

Sings for the 11 a.m. Sanctuary worship service September through June and performs major works with orchestra periodically.

Open Door Band

Plays 9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

The Open Door band, open to all ages, leads worship for the Open Door service Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall.

Wesley Ringers

**Thursdays, beginning September 25
7:30 - 8:45 p.m. in Bell Room**

This handbell choir plays the third Sunday of the month, October through May. Members must be able to read music. Directed by Al Fisk.

Ringer Needed! Wesley Ringers is looking for an experienced handbell ringer or someone who can read music. Contact Al Fisk at alfisk@comcast.net.



HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Broadway's Blake Whyte & Friends

Friday, September 19

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This extraordinary performance features Broadway actor and award-winning songwriter Blake Whyte, who starred in "Wicked" and "Mamma Mia." He has also served locally as a professor at both Oakland University and Rochester Christian University. Blake and friends will share original songs and much more. You won't want to miss this very special evening! Admission is free, but donations are greatly appreciated.



Special Music for Sundays

September 7: Fall Kick-Off Sunday will feature special music for choir with oboe, bagpipes and percussion

September 14: Dedication of Music Ministry Sunday will feature brass quintet with choir and a blessing of those participating in our music ministries.

UPDATE

Transforming St. Paul's

Townhall Meeting

Sunday, September 28

5:30 - 7 p.m.

Hickey Hall

Come hear an update on Transformation projects and church finances with Pastor Elbert Dulworth, Trustee Chair Wendell Creps, and Transforming St. Paul's Committee co-chair John Gaber. We'll provide the latest updates and time for Q & A. Pizza dinner will be served following the program.



Navigating Interpersonal Conflicts

Does Life Have To Be So Hard?

Tuesday, September 30

7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Conflict is part of life — but it doesn't have to define your relationships or derail your peace. This honest, hope-filled session explores the deeper roots of interpersonal conflict and how, with the right mindset and a grounded set of purpose, it can lead to growth, healing, and stronger connection. Featured speaker: Beth Talbert, retired OU faculty member & former Rochester School Board president. Sponsored by St. Paul's Health Ministry Team and Stephen Ministers. This is a free program that will be open to the public.



Classes & Groups



Seeker's Study

Mondays, September 8 - October 13

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

Looking for a great book study? Come be part of Seekers as we begin **The Bible With and Without Jesus** by Amy Jill Levine and Marc Brettler. The video features the two authors discussing the ways Christians and Jews read and understand the Scriptures of our faith traditions. The participant guide can be ordered from Cokesbury or your favorite bookseller.



Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, September 16

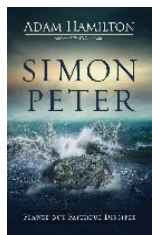
7 p.m. Gus O'Connor's

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.



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, September 12 - October 24 (except Oct. 10)

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

Come beginning at 9:15 a.m. for coffee

Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple We look at the ups and downs of Simon Peter's faith journey. The videos of Adam Hamilton which provide the basis of our

discussions were filmed in Israel at key locations in Peter's life so are especially meaningful. Books are not required but can be ordered online. For further information or to sign up, contact Nancy Fidler at 248-933-1981 or nnfidler@gmail.com.



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, September 16; 12 p.m. in Hickey Hall

JUST OLDER YOUTH returns for our monthly brown bag lunch and fellowship gatherings. Coffee and dessert are provided. This group of 60 and up folk invites you to join us for conversation, special programs and outreach opportunities to connect with the St. Paul's family. Invite a friend and be part of us...we've never met a stranger!



Disciple Bible Study Fast Track

Tuesdays, beginning September 23

6:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Have you ever tried to read the Bible but weren't sure where to start? Do you wonder what it all means and sometimes find it hard to understand or relate to what you are reading? What if you could read it together with others who are seeking meaning and understanding as well? Join Pastor Elbert Dulworth to find out more about how we can grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ through studying the scriptures in this coming year. Twelve sessions in fall and 12 sessions in winter.



Early Bird Men's Group

Early Bird Men's Group

Wednesday, September 17

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

SPARK Book Group

Thursday, September 18

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we read *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. We welcome new members! Contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.



New Member Class

Discover St. Paul's

Sunday, September 28

10:30 a.m. – noon OR

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

If you are new to St. Paul's, we would like to help you and your family connect with people in the church. Learn more about small groups and ministry teams that are offered, visit with the pastors, learn more about the United Methodist Church, and tour the building. We think you will discover St. Paul's is for you! We will welcome those who choose to become members on October 5.

Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex or in Hickey Hall. Childcare will be available only at the 10:30 a.m. class. Please email Amy@stpaulsrochester.org if you need childcare. Contact Marilyn Kress at marilyn.kress@gmail.com or 586-212-9065 for more information.

Looking Ahead



EARLY BIRD HOLIDAY

ART & CRAFT FAIR

Local Vendors · Original Handmade Artwork & Crafts

Saturday, October 18

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Seeking artists and crafters interested in renting booth space. Scan QR code to apply now for a booth at our Holiday Fair.

Save the date for holiday shopping!



United Women in Faith

UWF Annual Meeting

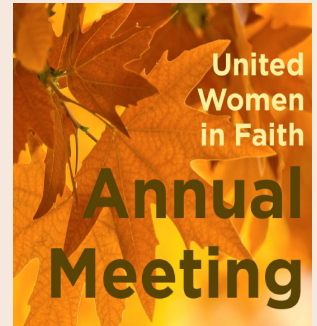
Tuesday, September 9

6 p.m. Circle Meetings

6:30 p.m. Light Dinner in Hickey Hall

7 p.m. Business Meeting in Hickey Hall

Join us for our Annual Meeting to experience the love and support of a great group of Christian women. To find a group that meets your needs, contact Karen Reynolds at kjr975@gmail.com. All Circles will hold their September meetings and then we'll have fellowship and a light supper provided by the Executive Board. A short business meeting follows during which the membership will vote on the 2026 budget and slate of officers. New members will be inducted. Get information on upcoming fundraisers and events.



Looking Ahead

Save your Stuff!

Drop off days:

Monday, Oct 6; 5 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct 7; 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sale Days: October 10 & 11

It's time to clean your closets, basements and garages and save those items you would like to donate for the rummage sale. Get organized and make space while helping others. All of the proceeds from the rummage sale are donated to charities that support women and children. **Volunteers always needed!** A signup is available with links in The Connector or on our website at stpaulsrochester.org.



STEPHEN
MINISTRY

Serve as a Stephen Minister

When was the last time someone really listened to you? 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? To learn more, 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, come talk with the Stephen Ministers following worship on September 14. We will be glad to provide information and answer questions. Or you may contact 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!**



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

NEW!

Family Ministries Newsletter

St. Paul's Youth Ministry Newsletter will be combining with Children's Ministry emails and Parent emails to provide one source to **Educate, Inform, and Invite** families to St. Paul's offerings and provide resources for faith formation at home. To be added to the distribution list, email Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org.



Children & Youth Music Program

Resumes Sunday September 14
Youth Choir: 4:15 - 5 p.m.
Children's Choir: 5:15 - 6 p.m.
in Choir Room

All children and youth are invited to participate in the music program led by Besty Marsh. Children's choir is for students K-5th grade. Youth choir is for students 6th - 12th grade. Both choirs will perform periodically in worship.



Elementary Bibles

Sunday, September 28; 9:30 & 11 a.m. services

Third through fifth graders will receive their Bibles on September 28 during worship. If you would like your child to receive a Bible, please sign up using the link in the Connector or on our website or email Amy Heitman at Amy@stpaulsrochester.org.

Happy Summer from Preschool!

We hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer season! We're already looking forward to the upcoming school year and can't wait to welcome our preschoolers back to the classroom. Our dedicated teachers have been busy preparing their rooms and planning exciting, engaging lessons to kick off the new year with joy and creativity!



Mark Your Calendars:

- **Parent Night: Wed, Sep 3 at 7 p.m.**

Join us as we share important information and updates for the school year ahead.

- **Meet the Teacher Days: Thu, Sep 4 & Fri, Sep 5**

This is a special time for our preschoolers to visit their classrooms with their parents and meet their teachers before the year begins.

We're also thrilled to announce our first field trip of the school year to Westview Orchards in October! It promises to be a fun-filled day of learning, laughter, and autumn adventures.

Help Us Grow! If you know any families looking for a loving and enriching preschool environment, please encourage them to reach out. We'd be delighted to share more about our program and schedule a tour. Email: preschool@stpaulsrochester.org.

Thank you for being such a valued part of our preschool family. We're grateful for your continued support and partnership.

Warm regards,
Michelle Staarmann
Preschool Director

P. S. We have a few openings for our Pre-K class for 4-year-olds, M - F; 9 a.m. - noon. Scan QR code for online application.



NEW!

Elementary Bible Parent Engagement Sunday, September 21

10:30 - 11 a.m. in the Parlor

Parents of children receiving their Bibles on September 28 can get a mini engagement session on helping their child use their new Bible.

High School Youth Group

All 9th - 12th graders & their friends
Sundays beginning September 7
5 - 7 p.m. in the Lounge

Are you looking for a way to unwind and have fun after a crazy week? Are you yearning to make an impact in your community? Our High School Youth Group is the place for you and your friends. We provide a relaxed atmosphere for teens to be themselves, explore their faith, help out others and have fun. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. unless we are off campus (\$5/meal or \$110/year). We meet in Hickey Hall. **Good times are guaranteed!**

September 7 Youth Group Kick Off!
September 14 Soul Service
September 21 YouLead
September 28 Mix Up



Middle School Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends
Sundays beginning September 7
5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Are you looking for a fun and relaxing way to start your week? Our Middle School Youth Group is lively and fun! We provide a safe place where you can be yourself. Our activities are geared to strengthen our relationships with

God and each other, help the community and have fun. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. unless we are off campus (\$5/meal, \$110/year). **Friends are welcome anytime.**

September 7 Youth Group Kick Off!
September 14 Serve It Up
Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting
September 21 YouLead
September 28 Fall for Fun



Food is good for the soul
Meet and Eat
Tuesday, September 16
6:30 p.m. at Alibi of Troy
6700 Rochester Rd. Troy
All HS students and friends are

welcome. Dinner is FREE. RSVP to Jodi Stuermer at jodi@stpaulsrochester.org.

Keep our Students in your Prayers

Continue to pray for all the students (and their families) as their fall semester begins. They need our support and prayers for peace and strength with school demands, family schedules, mental health issues, and shutting out the negativity from our hectic world. May they feel comfort in God's presence and knowing they have a team of adults praying for them.

Childcare & Sunday School Resume September 7

Children younger than kindergarten can attend childcare at the start of each worship service in Room 127.

Children in kindergarten through 5th grade will attend Sunday school together in Room 126. **Please walk your children to Sunday school and sign them in each week** so that we can get to know one another and keep everyone safe.



Save the Date - HS Students & Parents

High School Worktrip Meeting

Sunday, October 5; 5 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Join us to learn about our 2026 summer worktrip. Students must be current HS Freshman through Senior to attend worktrip next summer.

Confirmation Youth & Parent Meeting

September 14; 5 - 7 p.m. in the Parlor

We invite any student 7th grade and older to participate in this year's Confirmation experience led by Rev. Dulworth. During our studies we will work together



to learn more about the United Methodist Church, take field trips to learn other religious practices, learn more about the Bible and become closer to God and others.

Students and parents meet September 14 to discuss the calendar and expectations and share a meal with youth group at 6:30 p.m. Classes run September 21 through Confirmation on May 17. Cost for the class is \$100.

Registration forms can be found on the Confirmation page at stpaulsrochester.org. **Register by September 16** by returning forms to church or emailing them to Debbie@stpaulsrochester.org.



Holy Communion

Sunday, September 7; 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 Drive

Monday, September 8

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. in 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').



Blood Pressure Clinic

Sunday, September 14

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

Stop by between services to have your blood pressure checked.



Upcoming Baptism Dates

Sunday, September 21 & October 26

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. For more information, contact the office at 248-651-9361.



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 Online at** stpaulsrochester.org/school.

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

The Open Door Service

9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Traditional Service

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

7 SeptemberFEST Fall Kick-off Celebration

Children, Youth & Adult Programming Resume

1 Corinthians. 9:24-27	God's Invitation to the Race	Rev. Dulworth
14 Isaiah 40:28-31	Finding Strength when the Going Gets Tough	Rev. May
21 Baptisms		
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	The Power of Running Together	Rev. Dulworth
28 Philippians 3:12-14	Living with the Eternal Perspective	Rev. Kress

SERMON SERIES September

Looking Ahead...

October

- 4th Men's Breakfast
- Support for Caregivers
- 5th World Communion Sunday
- 10-11th Rummage Sale
- 13th Blood Drive
- 16th SPARK Book Group
- UWF Book Club
- 17th HITH Concert
- 18th Early Bird Art & Craft Fair
- 21st JOY
- 26th Generosity Sunday
- Trick or Eat 5 - 7 p.m.