

the **EVANGEL**

St. Paul's Newsletter

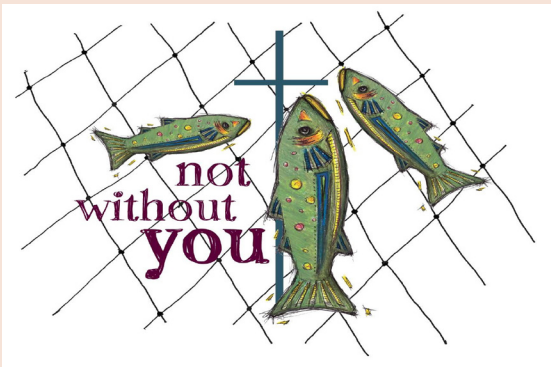
October 2025



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

October 2025

Pastor's Message



Generosity Campaign

When did you feel embraced in God's loving net? What brought you to St. Paul's? Which strong knots held you up in your faith journey?

There's still plenty of room in the nets for more fish. And we're invited to cast them out yet again. With Jesus, the knots that hold us together continue to grow stronger... with one another, our reach is further, but... not without you!

Together we are held and make room for more to experience the embrace of love... of hope... of peace... of life... in Jesus Christ.

What impact might we see if all of us were casting the net together? Just imagine the catch! Join us in our 2026 Generosity Campaign for it's possible, but... **Not Without You!**

Scan QR code to see more about the Generosity Campaign on our website.



Not Without You

In John 21, following a night of unsuccessful fishing after the resurrection, the disciples headed back to shore. They had nothing to show for their labors. Then suddenly, the resurrected Jesus appears on the shore inviting them to throw their nets out once more. Not recognizing him at first they take the risk, and the catch is so large that the nets are barely able to contain all the fish. What an amazingly generous catch Jesus had brought in for them! He showed up when they needed him most.



After breakfast, Jesus turns to Peter and asks him three times, "Do you love me?" When Peter confesses that he does, Jesus reminds him to care for his sheep. As the foundation of faith on whom Jesus would build the church, Jesus is saying to Peter and to us, "I need you too... just as you are... with your strengths and struggles."

As October rolls around and we think about the coming year, we remember our need for Jesus and for one another as we cast our nets into the sea once more, inspiring others to live and love like Jesus. We can't do this work without Jesus! And certainly not without you!

We hope you'll join us this month as we celebrate what God is doing in our midst to transform our communities and our world as well as envision what God will do with us, in us, and through us in the year that is to come.

Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor

UPDATE

Transforming St. Paul's Townhall Meeting

Sunday, September 28
5:30 p.m. in 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.



HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Harmony in the Hills presents:

OctoberFest

**Friday, October 17
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Featuring the acclaimed Justin Lamb on marimba, our own Dr. Seung Hee Cho on piano, and a String Quartet comprised of members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; Eun Park Lee and Rachel Klaus on violin, Michael Chen on viola and Jeremy Crosmer on cello.

This classical musical event is a rare treat featuring seasonal, festive music, and even a Halloween surprise you won't want to miss!

Admission is free

Donations greatly appreciated.



Family Fun!

Trick or Eat

Sunday, October 26

5 - 7 p.m. Meet in Hickey Hall

Join us at a NEW TIME for fall fun!

Come for Halloween fun including:

- Enjoy Trick or Treating
- Wear your Halloween Costume
- Pizza
- Invite Friends!

Our wonderful Youth Group will be hosting the annual Trick or Eat event at a new time from 5 - 7 p.m. Come dressed in costume and ready to trick or treat. Pizza will also be served. This is a FREE event. Invite friends and family. It will be a spook-tacular time!



EARLY BIRD HOLIDAY

ART & CRAFT FAIR

Local Vendors · Original Handmade Artwork & Crafts

Saturday, October 18; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Shop! · Snack Bar! · Shop some more!

Save the date for holiday shopping!

Looking Ahead



Foodie Fellowship

Family Mixer

Saturday, November 8

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall

The OH! Committee (Outreach and Hospitality) hosts a new event. Get to know one another a little better with starter questions at each table and rotate from table to table and share great food. We're inviting everyone to bring a family member, coworker or friend with them.

We'd like to have an idea of numbers so please email Shari Purdie at sharipurdie@yahoo.com with interest.

Classes & Groups

Cancer Support Group

Tuesdays, September 30 – November 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. For more information, call the church office at 248-651-9361.



Open Table New Small Group

Sundays, October 5 - 26
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Open Table is a welcoming community where friendships are formed and hearts are nourished. We will gather around an open space of conversation, learning, and spiritual reflection. Whether you're carrying joy, questions, or quiet hope, you're invited to bring your whole self. Together, we explore faith, support one another, and discover something new—about God, about each other, and about ourselves. Sunday morning childcare is available.

Come as you are. There's a seat for you.

Oct 5 Can you hear me?

Oct 19 When should I speak up?

Oct 12 What's my style?

Oct 26 Do differences matter?



Prayer Shawl Ministries

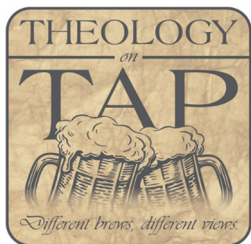
Tuesday, October 14; 1 - 2:30 p.m. in Room 132

Great chance to create a shawl or baby hat with others to give to others. Contact Donna Heflin at 248- 505-6413 by text with any questions.



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, October 21; 12 p.m. in Hickey Hall
JOY will meet for a brown bag lunch; coffee and dessert provided. Everyone 60+ is invited to share food, fellowship and service projects. Bring your friends and neighbors. **Everyone is welcome!**



Theology on Tap

Tuesday, October 21 at 7 p.m.
Rochester Mills 400 Water St. Rochester
The Beer & Hymns folks are shaking it up with a new gathering in a new place. Join in a lively discussion of contemporary topics from different faith perspectives. St. Paul's provides the appetizers; participants buy their own drinks.

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.

United Methodist

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, October 4

8 a.m. in the Parlor

All men are invited to join us for breakfast and brotherhood. No RSVP necessary. Invite a guest. **Join us!** Contact Dave deSteiger at 248-376-0416.



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, October 16

1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we read *The Girls We Sent Away* by Meagan Church. We welcome new members! Contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

HUGS Mission Opportunity

Operation School Bell

Wednesday, October 22

8:30 a.m.- noon; Rogers Elementary

HUGS mission to serve school-aged children. We will be helping children in Pontiac's Rogers Elementary choose a winter coat, hat, gloves, pants, tops, underwear, socks, hygiene kit, book and duffel bag. Each of us will be assigned children to escort through this process. Wear black pants and a white shirt. Arrange childcare at St. Paul's in advance and fill out a St. Paul's release form. Sponsored by The Assistance League of Southeast Michigan. Stay tuned for carpooling opportunities.

HUGS Girls Night Out

Thursday, October 23; 6:30 p.m.

Rochester Mills Beer Company

400 Water St. Rochester

Meet for good food and great company. Check our Facebook page for more details and how to RSVP or contact Steph at stephaniewalker.288@gmail.com or Sue at suecamevans@yahoo.com.

United Women in Faith

We Believe Love in Action Can Change the World

October Circle Meetings

- All Circles - Help with Rummage Sale
- New Hope Circle - Thursday, October 2 at 7 p.m. TBD.

Executive Board Meeting: Thursday, October 16; 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.



2025 Fall Rummage Sale

Friday,
October 10

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday,
October 11

9 a.m. - noon

Join in this GIANT Mission Project!



Drop off Days:

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

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

Hickey Hall drop off — adult clothing/shoes, jewelry, all household items, small furniture

Lower level drop off — children's clothing, toys, baby items, books/media, holiday decorations, crafts

We Need Your Time

Scan QR code to sign up to volunteer during the week. Food donations also needed.



Donating a cell phone? Unlock it and delete information on it.

These items do not sell and incur disposal costs so we cannot accept:

Large furniture (including entertainment centers, mattresses, sofas, china cabinets, large desks), televisions, computers, printers, computer components, car seats, large appliances, batteries, tires, waterbeds, built-in-type appliances, air conditioners, building supplies, storm windows, non-working electrical appliances, old textbooks, or magazines. We cannot accept cribs due to government regulations.



HUGS. Humor, Understanding, Growth and Support

For mothers and grandmothers of all ages

Wednesdays at 9 - 11:30 a.m. in Room 132

Oct 1 Swap & Drop Get ready for the rummage sale! Bring games or books to swap. Leftovers can be donated to the rummage sale. Bring your favorite fall treat to share.

Oct 8 Rummage Sale Help sort and organize and do a little pre-shopping as well! Childcare is available for this week. Questions? Contact Kathy Lutey at drlutey2@wowway.com.

Oct 15 Meet & Greet Invite a new friend to check out what HUGS is all about and have some fun! We'll make journals to take notes in advance of our study on Kathi Lipp's **The Me Project**.

Oct 22 Operation School Bell Off-campus 8:30 a.m. - noon at Rogers Elementary. See above.

Oct 29 The Me Project - Kathi Lipp. Fun and creative ways to bring back the sense of purpose and vitality that comes with living out the plans and dreams God has planted in our hearts. Stay for **Wednesday LUNCH BUNCH** 11:30-12:45. Bring one ingredient to include in a potluck salad - there is a signup for ingredients.



See stpaulsrochester.org/calendar/ 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.

Missions

St. Paul's Sponsors Scare Away Hunger

St. Paul's once again will be a Platinum Level sponsor for the Scare Away Hunger 5K Run/Walk and Family Fun Run that Neighborhood House is hosting on October 5. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we will be providing \$3,000 to support the event.



5K Run/Walk and Family Fun Run

Scare Away Hunger

Sunday October 5

9 a.m. in Rochester Municipal Park

Whether you are a casual walker or a running enthusiast, join us in helping in Neighborhood House's vision of a community of neighbors helping neighbors on the path of self-sustainability. Participants are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes! Proceeds from this event will help our neighbors with food insecurities and during times of hardship. Scan QR Code to register.



Hats & Gloves for Baldwin

Please make donations by October 15

During the winter months there is a great need for hats and mittens at Baldwin Mission and Neighborhood House. For many years the United Women in Faith has donated hats and gloves that they buy at a discount from Broner Hat Company to maximize our donation.

UWF welcomes any donations to help us continue this ministry. Please make checks to UWF with 'hats and gloves' in the memo line and mail to 620 Romeo St. Rochester, MI 48307 or donate online by scanning the QR code. If you donate online, email Amy Lundquist at calund2@yahoo.com so she can track your donation.



Looking Ahead

Night of 1000 Blessings

Sunday, November 16; 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

We are teaming up with Midwest Mission to pack Rice and Soy Blessing Bags with the goal of providing bags to feed 14,400 people! These Blessing Bags meet hunger needs, but also nutritional needs to provide lasting energy. Each bag feeds 6 people and includes vitamin pack, dehydrated vegetables, soy and white rice.



This will be our largest Night of 1000 Blessings yet and **we need more than 100 volunteers to help.** To get ready for the event, **we need folks who are willing to be Table Leaders** to supervise the efforts of one table of 8-10 people. If you are willing to be a Table Leader, please sign up by scanning the QR code. Table Leaders will meet ahead of the event to what is required to pack the bags.



This is a great mission opportunity for families!

MS Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. Hickey Hall

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. (\$5/meal).

Friends are welcome anytime.

Oct 5	Spooky Setup
Oct 12	No Youth Group
Oct 19	Haunted Hayride (off campus)
Oct 26	Trick or Eat



HS Youth Group

All 9th - 12th graders & their friends

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. in the Lounge

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. (\$5/meal).

We meet in Hickey Hall.

Good times are guaranteed!

Oct 5	Worktrip Meeting, YouLead
Oct 12	No Youth Group
Oct 19	Haunted Hayride (off campus)
Oct 26	Trick or Eat



High School Worktrip

Parent Information Meeting

Sunday, October 5; 5 p.m. in the Narthex

Our summer worktrip is a life-changing experience for both youth and adult volunteers. This trip gives our teenagers an opportunity to invest in something bigger than themselves, explore a new area, and bond with other youth. Parents and students, please come to this informational meeting to learn about our 2026 trip. We will discuss fundraisers, expenses, and other details about this week of service.

St. Paul's Preschool Corner

Welcome Back to Preschool!

We're so happy to begin another wonderful school year at our preschool! We had a fantastic turnout at Parent Night and Meet the Teacher. Thank you to everyone who helped us warmly welcome our preschool families.



Our amazing teachers are already busy with fun lessons and engaging activities, and the preschoolers are settling in beautifully, making new friends and getting excited about learning.

We're also looking ahead to our first field trip of the year to Westview Orchards in October! It's going to be a fun-filled experience for everyone.

If you know any families searching for a preschool, please encourage them to contact us. I would love to share more information and arrange a tour of our school. Our email is preschool@stpaulsrochester.org. Thank you for being such an integral part of our preschool family!

Warm regards,
Michelle Staarmann
St. Paul's Preschool Director



Meet & Eat

Thursday, October 23

6:30 p.m. at Don Armondo's Mexican Cuisine

1431 N. Rochester, Rd. Rochester Hills

All High School youth are welcome for a FREE dinner out. Bring friends and a big appetite.



Halloween Candy Leftovers

If you don't give out all of your candy **donate it to us!** We will send it off to our college students. Drop candy in the church office or in Room 206.



Holy Communion

World Communion Sunday

October 5 at 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 Pressure Clinic

Sunday, October 12

10:30 - 11 a.m. &

12 - 12:30 p.m. in the Narthex

Stop by between services to have your blood pressure checked.



Blood Drive

Monday, October 13

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').



Upcoming Baptism Dates

Sunday, October 26 & November 30

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.



Rummage Sale

Drop off days:

Monday, October 6

5 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, October 7

9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sale Days:

Friday, October 10

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 11

9 a.m. - noon

Volunteers always needed!

See more Rummage Sale information on page 5.



Looking Ahead...

November

- 1st UMM Breakfast
- Support for Caregivers
- 2nd All Saints Sunday
- 8th Foodie Family Mixer
- 11th Blood Drive
- 13th Annual Church Conference
- 14th Harmony in the Hills Concert
- 16th Wedding Vow Renewal
- New Member Class
- Night of 1000 Blessings
- 18th Just Older Youth
- Theology on Tap
- 19th Early Bird Men's Group
- 20th SPARK Book Group
- 23rd That Takes the Cake Sale
- Hanging of the Greens
- 27th Happy Thanksgiving
- Church closed
- 28th Church closed
- 30th First Sunday in Advent

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

The Open Door Service

9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Traditional Service

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

5 Not Without YOU

John 21:1-6

Empty Nets

Rev. Dulworth

12 John 21:7-12

The Fire on the Shore

Rev. May

19 John 21:12-14

A Breakfast Invitation

Rev. Dulworth

26 Generosity Sunday • Trick or Eat

John 21:15-17

The Question That Defines Us

Rev. Dulworth

SERMON SERIES October