

# the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

May/June 2026



St. Paul's  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Rochester, Michigan

May/June 2026

## Live Lighter, Love Deeper, and Show Up

Every year as May begins, our spring rummage sale ends up being about more than just “stuff.” It’s kind of like a real-life reset. We clear out the clutter - not just from closets, storage rooms, and basements, but from our lives. We pass things on instead of tossing them, which is a small but real way of caring for each other (and the earth). We find things that are “new to us,” reminding us that joy doesn’t have to be brand new to be meaningful. And somewhere between sorting tables and carrying boxes, we actually get to know each other... really know each other. All of it adds up to something bigger: real impact in individual lives through our United Women in Faith’s support of mission, especially among women, children, and families.

Honestly, that’s what the church is supposed to look like!

God says in Isaiah 43:19, “I am about to do a new thing - do you not perceive it?” Maybe part of that “new thing” is learning to live lighter, love deeper, and show up for each other in real ways.

May is packed with moments that matter - Mother’s Day, Confirmation Sunday, and Pentecost. These aren’t just dates on secular and sacred calendars; they’re chances to celebrate people, mark big milestones, welcome new people into our life together at St. Paul’s, and experience God’s Spirit moving in and among us.

Then in June, we’re starting a series called “When God Doesn’t...” based on Habakkuk. Because let’s be honest - faith isn’t always neat and tidy. Sometimes God doesn’t show up the way we expect. Sometimes prayers feel unanswered. Sometimes God feels silent and distant. This series is about bringing those real questions into the open and discovering a faith that’s honest enough to wrestle and strong enough to hold on.

So come be part of it. And don’t just come solo - invite someone to sit with you at St. Paul’s. Faith is better when we do it together.

Blessings,  
*Elbert Dulworth*  
Senior Pastor



## A Night of Expressive Praise

Friday, May 1

7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Join us for a powerful evening of worship, creativity, transformation, and community. Experience prayer, worship, music, dance, poetry, personal stories, and more. Come to reflect, express, and encounter God in a fresh way.

*And I, when I am lifted up... will draw all people to myself so Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. John 12:32 & Psalm 150:6*



## United Women in Faith Honoring our Mothers Mother's Day May 10

For Mother's Day we ask that you remember your mother, either living or passed, by contributing to the United Women in Faith. All funds raised will be used to support UWF mission projects.

The names will be printed in the worship program at the May 10 worship services. **Deadline is May 4** to be included in the Mother's Day service.

Please submit your name and mother's name to:  
St. Paul's UWF — attn. Debbie Kelly  
620 Romeo St. Rochester, MI 48307

Make checks to 'United Women in Faith' with 'Honoring our Mothers' in the memo line. To give online, scan QR code and select 'United Women in Faith' giving option with 'Mother's Day' in the comment line and email the names to [Debbie@stpaulsrochester.org](mailto:Debbie@stpaulsrochester.org).



## Welcome, Confirmands! Sunday, May 17

11 a.m. service in Sanctuary

Reception following worship in the Narthex

On May 17, celebrate the confirmation of St. Paul's youth as they become the newest members of the church. We invite you to greet and welcome them at a reception in the Narthex following the 11 a.m. service.



## Capital Campaign

### Gratitude Celebration

Sunday, June 7

10:30 a.m. on the Patio

Please join us during coffee hour for a Gratitude Celebration on the new patio in front of the church. We're giving thanks to all of you for your support of the Transforming St. Paul's campaign. Because of your giving, improvements are being made throughout our church. You can feel the excitement! Come help us celebrate the impact your giving has made at St. Paul's.



### Prayer Gathering

A Service of Healing & Reflection

Saturday, June 13

10 a.m. in Rickard Chapel

Come for a time to pray, be anointed, be encouraged, and to reflect as we pray for those who need physical, emotional, and relational healing in their lives.



### Foodie Fun Fellowship Summer Style

Tuesday, June 23

7 p.m. on the Patio

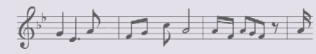
The Beer & Hymns folks are planning a series of summer gatherings to keep us all connected. We'll meet outdoors on the new church patio to gather, share a simple snack, and enjoy each other's company during the summer months. If it rains, we'll meet in the Parlor. The first gathering is June 23 with future gatherings on **July 14 & 28** and **August 11 & 25**. Watch for details in The Connector. **Let's stay connected this summer!**

### Handbell Ringer Needed!

The Wesley Ringers Handbell Choir is looking for two experienced ringers to join our family in the Fall. We meet Thursdays and perform the third Sunday of the month. Contact Al Fisk at [alfisk@comcast.net](mailto:alfisk@comcast.net).



## HARMONY IN THE HILLS



### City Lights Chorus

Friday, May 15 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Harmony in the Hills welcomes the internationally renowned City Lights Chorus, an all-male acapella chorus specializing in barbershop style singing. Based in Metro-Detroit, they are known for their distinct four-part harmony, as well as their high energy and artistic performances. You won't want to miss this popular group! They take traditional barbershop to a new level. Suggested donation is \$20.



### Concert in the Garden

Wednesday, June 10; 7 p.m. Garden of Hope  
Featuring Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet

The group features an oud, violin, bass, synthesizer and world percussion and specializes in original compositions and music from Turkey, Armenia, Egypt, Ukraine, India, Bulgaria and Greece. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy great music in a beautiful setting. Free admission.

# Classes & Groups

## Learning to Walk with God

Thursdays, May 7 - August 27  
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 artwork, Christian visual works, prose and poetry and how scripture compliments the message. All ability levels are welcome. When walking in Rochester Municipal Park, park near the Police Station. Email Judy Smouter at [smouterj@comcast.net](mailto:smouterj@comcast.net) for more information.



## Prayer Shawl Group

Tuesday, May 12; 1 p.m. in Room 132

Pray over shawls before offering them at our last meeting before fall. Plan and create fabric arts to sell at our next craft table at St. Paul's in fall 2026.

## J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, May 19; 12 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Just Older Youth will meet for a brown bag lunch with dessert, coffee and tea provided.



Tuesday, June 16; 12 p.m. on the Patio

**Annual Picnic** - No need to bring your lunch...picnic food provided! Hopefully, we will be able to meet on the new patio. This will be our last meeting until fall.



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.**



## Four Portraits of Jesus

The Message of the Gospels  
Fridays, June 5 - 26

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor or on Zoom  
Come beginning at 9:15 a.m. for coffee

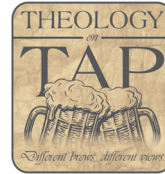
**Led by Rev. Rick Kress** The four Gospels tell us nearly everything we know about the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Yet each Gospel paints a different portrait of Jesus. The class will explore why this is, how it shows up in each individual Gospel, and what these four portraits tell us about following Jesus today. This interactive Bible study will allow participants to discover the message of the four Gospels and learn about Jesus in fresh ways. For further information or to sign up, contact Nancy Fidler at 248-933-1981 or [nnfidler@gmail.com](mailto:nnfidler@gmail.com).

## United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 2  
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](mailto:davidrdesteiger@gmail.com).



## Theology on Tap

Tuesday, May 19; 7 p.m.  
Rochester Mills 400  
Water St. Rochester

Join in a lively discussion of contemporary topics from different faith perspectives. St. Paul's provides the appetizers; participants buy their own drinks.



## SPARK Book Group

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

May 21

*The German Wife*

by Kelly Rimmer

June 18

*Broken Country*

by Clare Leslie Hall

Join us! We welcome new members!  
Call Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.



## UWF Book Club

Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. in Room 132

Join our stimulating discussions:

**May 21** *Michi Challenges History:*

*From Farm Girl to Costume Designer to Relentless Seeker of the Truth* by Ken Mochizuki

**June 18** *Sanctuary* by Paola Mendoza and Abby Sher

Please contact Nancy Shannon at [nancgs@aol.com](mailto:nancgs@aol.com) with questions.



## HUGS

For mothers & grandmothers of all ages  
Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m. Room 132

### May 6 Rummage Sale

Help sort and organize during our normal HUGS meeting time. Come as early as 9 a.m. or stay for lunch. If you'd like to help out at other times this week, they'd appreciate the extra hands. Childcare is available both Wednesday and Friday if anyone is free to help on Friday. Volunteer using QR code in Rummage Sale section to the right.

### May 13 Wild Card Wednesday

Motherhood is both wildly rewarding and at times, wildly unpredictable. We'll assess where we are on the roadmap of motherhood and what's next.

### May 20 End of Year Celebration

11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. in the Parlor  
All year we have been focusing on ways to let "the God of hope fill you ... with joy and peace as you trust in him." Romans 15:13, so it seems fitting to fill our day with extra joy and peace as we celebrate all we've accomplished this year. Bring a dish to pass if you can - a formal evite will be sent closer to the event

### May 27 Happiness Is... A Walk in the Park

10 - 11 a.m. in Rochester Municipal Park  
Start the summer with a nice morning stroll while the kids are still in school.

### Scan QR code to reserve childcare.

We offer free childcare for May but we ask that you sign up for childcare by the preceding Sunday at midnight so we can make sure we have the proper ratio of wonderful caregivers!



## United Women in Faith

We Believe Love in Action Can Change the World  
May/June Circle Meetings

All Circles: Help at Rummage Sale &  
Attend Spring Dinner

- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, June 10 at 1 p.m. at Olive Garden on Rochester Rd.
- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, June 11 at 10 a.m. tour of OPC.



## United Women in Faith Spring Dinner

Tuesday, May 19; 6 - 8 p.m. in Hickey Hall

UWF invites all women of the church to our Spring Dinner for a evening of fellowship with a program by Kimber Bishop-Yanke from **Kids Empowered on the Move**. We are interested in learning all this organization has to offer here in Oakland County. Circles meet at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program. Bring a salad to share so we have many choices to taste for dinner. Bring a friend and meet some new friends.

## Spring Rummage Sale

Friday, May 8      Saturday, May 9  
9 a.m.- 4 p.m.      9 a.m.- noon

Join in this GIANT Mission Project!

### We Need Your Things - Drop off:

**Monday, May 4; 5 - 8 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, May 5; 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

**Hickey Hall drop off** — adult clothing/shoes, jewelry, all household items, furniture  
**Lower level drop off** - children's clothing, toys, baby items, books/media, holiday decorations, crafts

### Volunteers are needed!

Please give a few hours Sunday, May 3 through Saturday, May 9.

Scan the QR code to volunteer or Sign up by clicking the 'Volunteer Sign-up' button at [stpaulsrochester.org](http://stpaulsrochester.org).



### Please label size of bedding and tablecloths.

We do not accept: computers or components, printers, televisions, large appliances, batteries, tires, waterbeds, built-in-type appliances, air conditioners, building supplies, storm windows, non-working electrical appliances, old textbooks, magazines or Christmas trees. We cannot accept cribs due to government regulations.

**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 location of Unique Boutique.

**Thank you for your generous support!**

# Missions

## Donate to Mission Challenge 2026 Goal: \$35,000

St. Paul's supports TWO organizations: Kids Empowered on the Move & Micah 6.



The Mission Team has chosen to support our neighbors in the greater Pontiac area through two local organizations: Kids Empowered On The Move, and the Micah 6 Community. With a lofty goal of \$35,000, St. Paul's will be able to provide cool new athletic shoes to 1,200 school children, and provide care navigation, along with funds to families working either to remain in their homes or to move into permanent housing. Learn more about them at [stpaulsrochester.org](http://stpaulsrochester.org) on the Missions page.



**To donate**, please write **MC 2026** on the envelope and memo line of your check to St Paul's UMC, or scan the QR code to donate online, select **Mission Challenge 2026 - Kids Empowered on the Move** or **Mission Challenge 2026 - Micah 6**. We ask for your support and thank you for helping to share God's love with our neighbors!



NEW on Website

## Upcoming Mission Opportunities

We are all part of the Mission Team!

Find details about upcoming mission opportunities on the Mission page of our website. Look for the new Mission Opportunities button for one place to go to stay informed with up-to-date information. Scan the QR code to go to our Missions page.



Save the Date

## Micah 6 Mission Moment

Sunday, May 17

9:30 & 11 a.m. services

Coleman Yoakum, Executive Director, will share the story and impact of Micah 6, one of our Mission Challenge 2026 recipients.



## Top Golf for Neighborhood House

Thursday, May 14; 6 - 9 p.m.

### Top Golf in Auburn Hills

Support Rochester Area Neighborhood House at their fundraising event at Top Golf in Auburn Hills. Individual tickets can be purchased for \$125 and include golf, dinner, games and prizes.

You can also purchase Spectator tickets for \$75 which include dinner, games and prizes. If interested, please contact John Kelly at [jpkelly1909@gmail.com](mailto:jpkelly1909@gmail.com) or at 248-808-4204. Please consider participating in this very worthwhile event.



## Baldwin Center Gala

Friday, May 15; Lafayette Grand in Pontiac

The Baldwin Center will be hosting their annual **Celebrating the Heart of Baldwin Gala** at the Lafayette Grande in Pontiac. This year's gala will be a Pre-Grand Prix theme with a strolling dinner and silent auction. Individual tickets are \$75 or two for \$125. Tables seating 8 are \$500. Anyone with questions or interest in attending contact Terry Heller at 248-705-3133 or [tlheller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tlheller@sbcglobal.net). This is a grand event not to be missed.

## Habitat for Humanity

Humanity Oakland County is grateful for the partnership with our church. St. Paul's has donated over \$105,000 since 2007 for building supplies for home building and renovations. UWF Rummage Sale proceeds and individual St. Paul's members donations have made a tremendous impact.

## New Home Build Day

Saturday, June 20; location TBD

Rough construction. No tools or prior skills required. Bring gloves and work clothes.

## Rock the Block

Thursday, July 16; Pontiac

We will be part of a larger group of volunteers working at multiple homes in need of outdoor work and possibly, some painting. Bring gloves and outdoor work clothes.

We welcome ALL volunteers; 18 to 70+, with skills or wanting to learn new skills, women and men, family groups, older youth group (18+) and friends or family of St. Paul's. Sign-up coming soon. Questions? Email Mike Becker at [msbecker50@gmail.com](mailto:msbecker50@gmail.com).



## St. Paul's Preschool

Spring has arrived, and our preschoolers are excited to spend more time outside enjoying the playground. Our Easter celebration was filled with egg hunts, special activities, and learning about Jesus and the true meaning of Easter. Spring brings many new learning opportunities as we explore weather, flowers, frogs, and bugs. Exploration and hands-on discovery make learning especially meaningful for preschoolers, and we look forward to all the adventures this season brings.

We are so thankful for our wonderful parents who joined us for parent-teacher conferences. It is always a joy to share the many successes and growth we've seen in our students this year.

We have limited spots available for the 2026-2027 school year. If you know anyone interested, we would love to provide more information and offer a tour of our program. Please visit [stpaulsrochester.org/preschool](http://stpaulsrochester.org/preschool).

Thank you for your continued support!  
*Ms. Michelle Staarmann*



## College Graduate Recognition

If you have a student who has recently graduated from college or post-college and would like their name printed in the worship program, please email their **name, college and degree** to Linda Jeffries at [Linda@stpaulsrochester.org](mailto:Linda@stpaulsrochester.org) by **May 18**.

## Graduate Sunday

**Sunday, June 7; 11 a.m. services**

Our HS seniors will be recognized during worship. A brunch will follow in Hickey Hall for the students and their families, as well as St. Paul's scholarship recipients. Wear your cap and gown. Please RSVP to [Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org](mailto:Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org) by **May 26**.

## Youth Group Party

**Sunday, May 3, 3-6 p.m.**

**TreeRunner Rochester**

**7553 Meadow Brook Rd, Rochester**

Drop off and pick up will be at the venue.

All HS/MS students and their friends are invited to an off-campus party. We will participate in the Bounce Forest and Mini Golf. We will NOT be doing the high ropes courses. Closed toe shoes required. Must have waiver signed before the event to participate. Dinner will be served. **RSVP** to Jodi Stuermer at [Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org](mailto:Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org).



## Meet & Eat at 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 12**

**Old Detroit Bar & Grill**

**6870 N. Rochester Rd.**

**Tuesday, June 2**

**Red Ox Tavern**

**3773 Walton Blvd.**

All HS youth are welcome for a **FREE** dinner. Grab a friend and meet us. **RSVP** to [jodi@stpaulsrochester.org](mailto:jodi@stpaulsrochester.org).



## High School Worktrip June 21 - 27 Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Please pray for safe travels and a successful week for our youth and adult volunteers as they travel to Gatlinburg and assist the elderly with home repairs.

**Student Worktrippers:** Kyle Beckwith, Maddy Bloomingdale, Daniel Boone-Fahey, Sam Coen, Jacob Deir, Olivia Deir, Hannah Eichler, Isaac Faruga, JR Harma, Nora McNiff, Marina Morse, Cullen Muenk, Drew Muenk, Matt Price, Leigh Sapp, Natalie Sapp, Will Schaefer, Ellie Simpson, Russell Stallings, Nathan Sundquist, Ella Vollmayer, Vinnie Vollmayer

**Adults:** Elijah Barchue, Ernesto Boone, Dorothy Deir, Pete Deir, Amy Heitman, Patti McGowan, John Muenk, Kevin Price, Grant Renny, Mike Vollmayer, Jodi Stuermer.

## Mandatory Worktrip Itinerary Meeting

**Sunday, May 17**

**5 p.m. in Hickey Hall**

All students going on worktrip and their parents **must attend!** All paperwork and fees due.

## Worktrip Commissioning

**Sunday, June 7**

**11 a.m. Sanctuary**

Join us June 7 for the commissioning of our worktrip participants and wish them well.

## Worktrip Report

**Sunday, July 12**

**11 a.m. Sanctuary**

Join us for this youth-led worship service which will highlight our trip to Gatlinburg.



## Vacation Bible School

July 20 - 24; 9 a.m. - noon

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a life-long adventure, discovering the nature of God, and exploring what it means to be rooted in relationship with their

creator, a safe place in life's storms. **Registration is OPEN** for children age 4 (as of September 1, 2026) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. All campers and volunteers scan QR code to register. **Adult and Youth volunteers needed!**



## Blood Pressure Clinic

Sunday, May 17 & June 14

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

Stop by to have your blood pressure checked.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

The Open Door Service

9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Traditional Service

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

May

3 Communion

1 Peter 2:2-10

Built to Belong

Rev. Dulworth

10 Baptism • Mother's Day

Acts 17:22-31

A Reasonable Faith

Rev. May

17 Confirmation

Matthew 28:16-20

The World Needs You

Rev. Dulworth

24 Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

The Holy Spirit Goes Viral

Rev. Dulworth

31 Annual Conference

Matt.28:19-20, John 8:31-32 How to Make a Disciple

Rev. Kress

June

7 Graduate Sunday

Habakkuk 1:1-4

When God Doesn't Seem to Care

Rev. Dulworth

14 Hab. 1:5-11 When God Doesn't Act How We Expect

Rev. Dulworth

### SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Open Door Service

9:30 a.m. Outdoors under Portico

Traditional Service

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

21 Father's Day

Hab. 2:1-4 When God Doesn't Give Immediate Answers

Rev. May

28 Hab. 3:17-19 When God Doesn't Remove the Storm

Rev. Kress

## SERMON SERIES May/June

## Holy

## Communion

May 3 & June 7

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

May 10 & September 20

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, May 18

& June 15

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](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code 'stpaulunited').



## Looking Ahead...

### July

1<sup>st</sup> Concert in the Garden

13<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive

14<sup>th</sup> Foodie Fun Fellowship

20-24<sup>th</sup> Vacation Bible School

26<sup>th</sup> VBS Sunday

28<sup>th</sup> Foodie Fun Fellowship

### August

5<sup>th</sup> Concert in the Garden

10<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive

11<sup>th</sup> Foodie Fun Fellowship

16<sup>th</sup> Blessing of the Animals

23<sup>rd</sup> Blessing of Backpacks

25<sup>th</sup> Foodie Fun Fellowship