

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

September 2026



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

September 2026

Pastor's Message

Say "Yes" to Adventure!

Adventure means stepping into the unknown, trying something new, and sometimes taking a risk. The Bible is filled with people who said "yes" to adventure.



Abraham left everything familiar and followed God's call. Moses led God's people out of slavery in Egypt through wilderness towards a promised land that he never entered. Paul traveled thousands of miles, facing rejection, imprisonment, and even death, to share the good news of Jesus.

Faith is an adventure. And this fall, we're inviting you to Say "Yes" to Adventure!

We'll kick things off with **SeptemberFEST** on **September 13**. We'll worship together as one congregation at 9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall, followed by a day of food, music, fun, and fellowship. It's a chance to reconnect, meet someone new, and get ready for all that God has in store this fall.

And there's plenty of adventure waiting at St. Paul's! Join a small group or Sunday School class. Dive deeper into Scripture through our 24-week Disciple Bible Study. Share your musical gifts through choir, bell choir, or another music ministry. Serve our children through Sunday School and Christian education. Or explore one of our many opportunities to serve our community and world.

As adventurer Alastair Humphreys says, "Adventure is a state of mind." Maybe this fall, God is inviting you to step beyond the familiar, try something new, and discover where the journey leads.

**So, St. Paul's, are you ready?
Let's say "Yes" to Adventure!**

Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor



SeptemberFEST Fall Kick-off

Sunday, September 13

**One All-Church
Worship Service
9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall**

**Celebration
10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
South Parking Lot**

Kick off the fall with a SeptemberFEST celebration after an ALL Church worship service at 9:30 a.m.

- **Live Music with Kristin Snyder & Jack's Revenge, an Indie Rock Band from Royal Oak**
- **Pony Rides for children**
- **Live animals from Chamberlin Petting Zoo**
- **GREAT Food!**
- **Booths with crafts and 'make & takes'**
- **Outdoor games**
- **S'mores**

Questions? Contact the church office at 248-651-9361 or Marilyn Kress at marilyn.kress@gmail.com.

Exciting Update!

Transforming St. Paul's

The Transforming St. Paul's campaign has achieved an important milestone. We have a total pledged amount of \$2,153,000. And.....drum roll please....we have now received over a MILLION dollars in gifts - \$1,138,000!

We give thanks for a congregation that is so generous and thoughtful in their giving. As a result of your gifts, you'll be seeing lots of construction activity in the halls of St. Paul's this year. Our heartfelt thanks to Wendell Creps and Kevin Floch for their work spearheading these projects. As you take detours through the building and step around ladders and dust, please remember that YOU made this happen for St. Paul's. Praise God!

REACH Committee Co-Chairs,
Camille Doerr and Beth Talbert





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 9
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 leads worship for the Open Door service Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall (outdoors in the summer).

Wesley Ringers

**Thursdays, beginning September 10
7:30 - 8:45 p.m. in Bell Room**

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

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

HARMONY IN THE HILLS

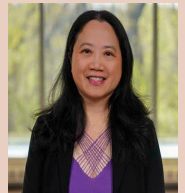


Duo Clarion

**Chad Burrow &
Amy I-Lin Cheng**

**Friday, September 25
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

The Harmony in the Hills Concert Series eases into fall with soothing chamber music by an internationally recognized clarinet and piano duo formed at Yale University in 1999. The pair have performed at prestigious venues throughout Asia, Europe, and the U.S. Their recording of Brahms and Schumann received wide critical acclaim. The two artists are also professors at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Admission is free, but donations are always appreciated.



Special Music Sunday

Sunday, September 20

Dedication of Music Ministry Sunday will feature the Wesley Ringers, brass quartet with choir and a blessing of those participating in our music ministries.



You are Not Alone: Understanding & Easing Loneliness

Tuesday, September 29; 7 - 9 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Loneliness is something we all experience at times in our lives. In this workshop, we will explore loneliness and examine the health risks and behavioral challenges that come with the feeling of loneliness. We will discuss some of the causes that contribute to the feeling that we are alone. We also will explore ways to deal with boredom and loneliness in productive healthy ways and offer suggestions for easing loneliness in our lives. Sponsored by Health Ministry and Stephen Ministry.

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Cassidy Azzow, PsyD, MAAT, DLLP, has clinical experience working with children, adolescents and adults in neuropsychological rehab facilities, outpatient clinics, and inpatient units. She specializes in Anger Management, Chronic Pain and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Iklas Bashi, MA, LPC, is a Catholic Clinical Therapist, Certified Life Coach, Motivational Speaker and Writer with over 20 years of counseling experience. Her experience and training in psychology help others break free from negative mindsets, discover their true identity and live a life of purpose and meaning.



Classes & Groups



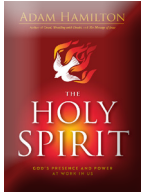
United Methodist Men's Breakfast
Saturday, September 5 at 8 a.m. in the Parlor
All men are invited to join us for breakfast and brotherhood. Invite a guest. Join us! Contact Dave deSteiger at davidrdesteiger@gmail.com.



Seeker's Study

Mondays, beginning September 14
1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Parlor and on Zoom

Our first book of the season is *Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang. This is a book about what Christianity started out as, what it became, and why it is still worth fighting for...the teachings of Jesus, and not as what the author calls "pious religious frauds." Books are in paperback and can be ordered from Amazon or your favorite bookseller. **All are welcome!**



The Holy Spirit

God's Presence & Power at Work in Us

All are welcome to join either of these groups that will be discussing Adam Hamilton's latest book. We'll be exploring what Scripture teaches about God's Spirit—from the Hebrew Bible through Jesus' promises in the Gospels, Acts and Paul's teachings in his letters. Discussions will be based on videos shown in class. Books are encouraged but not required and can be ordered from your favorite bookseller. Please register with either Kathy Swisher at swish1770@aol.com or Nancy Fidler at nnfidler@gmail.com.

Phil & Kathy Swisher's
Zoom Group
5 weeks beginning
Tuesday, September 15
7 p.m. on Zoom

Women's LIFE
Living in Faith Everyday
5 weeks beginning
Friday, September 18
9:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Disciple Bible Study Remember Who You Are
Tuesdays, beginning September 22
6:30 - 7:45 p.m. in the Parlor

What happens when we take a step back from the noise and ask, "Who are we—and what are we here for?" Over 24 weeks, we'll wrestle with and take a deep dive into the prophets of the Old Testament for 12 weeks and the letters of Paul in the New Testament for another 12 weeks. We'll explore questions about identity, purpose, justice, failure, hope, and what it means to belong to something bigger than ourselves. There's daily reading and study involved, but the real goal is conversation, discovery, and seeing these ancient words of the Bible with fresh eyes. Email Rachel Henry at Rachel@stpaulsrochester.org to register. **Come curious, come ready to think, and come ready to be surprised.**



J.O.Y.

Just Older Youth
Tuesday, September 15
12 p.m. in Hickey Hall
It's time to put JOY back into your life!

Everyone 65 and beyond is invited to the Just Older Youth monthly lunch. We meet at noon on the third Tuesday of the month. Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert, coffee and tea are provided. **Please join us!**



Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, September 15
7 p.m. at O'Connor's
Public House
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.



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, September 17
1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we read *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult. We welcome new members! Contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

UWF Book Club

Thursday, September 17
5:30 p.m. in Room 132

Join our stimulating discussion of *A Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times* by Jane Goodall. How do we cultivate hope in our children? What is the relationship between hope and action? Contact Nancy Shannon at nancgs@aol.com with questions.





Open Table

Sundays, September 20
- November 15
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in
Hickey Hall

Join us this fall! The Open Table is a warm and welcoming small group

that meets following the Open Door Service. Part Vespers, part social, part service and lots of good conversation! All individuals and all perspectives are welcome. You don't have to attend every week. Come as you are able!

We can't wait to see you!



New Member Class

Discover St. Paul's

Sunday, September 20

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 September 27. 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
Women
in Faith

UWF Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 22

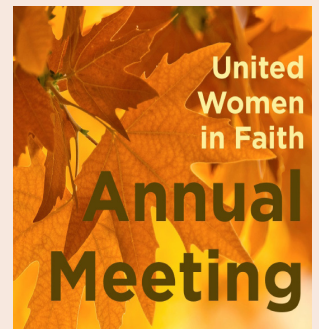
6 p.m. Circle Meetings

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 2027 budget and slate of officers. New members will be inducted. Get information on upcoming fundraisers and events.

We will also collect cash donations for our annual InGathering project to provide Baldwin Center and Kids Empowered On The Move the things that they need, such as can openers for families staying in hotels, deodorant and flip flops for people showering at Baldwin Center.



HUGS Humor, Understanding, Growth & Support

For mothers and grandmothers of all ages

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

Sep 9 Mugs & HUGS - Off campus

We ease into the new year with a field trip to Chai

Culture Cafe at 896 S Rochester Rd. Come when you

can, starting at 9:45 a.m. Kiddos are welcome!

See stpaulsrochester.org/calendar/ for more information about the rest of the September schedule.

HUGS observes the Rochester Community Schools calendar. When schools are closed, HUGS will not meet.



Looking Ahead

Early Bird Holiday

Art & Craft Fair

Saturday, October 24

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!**





Mission Update



GOAL ACHIEVED!

Mission Challenge 2026

\$10,000 to Micah 6 AND

\$10,000 to Kids Empowered On The Move

A GREAT BIG shout out and thank you to St. Paul's for your generosity in meeting our Mission Challenge 2026 goal. We were able to send \$10,000 to each of our mission challenge recipients.

By giving to the Micah 6 community, we were able to support local families and help students step confidently into the new school year with new shoes. With Kids Empowered on the Move, our donation assisted families who are working toward finding permanent housing. We continue to receive generous funding, which is wonderful as we will be able to support both organizations with community navigation projects.



Elementary Bibles

Sunday, September 27; 9:30 & 11 a.m. services

Third through fifth graders will receive their Bibles on September 27 during worship. If you would like your child to receive a Bible, please sign up by scanning the QR code.



Children & Youth Music Program



Bring a Friend for a field trip to DQ!

Sunday September 20

Youth Band: 4 - 5 p.m.

Children's Choir: 5 - 6 p.m.

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 band is for students 6th - 12th grade. Both choirs will perform periodically in worship.

Rehearsals start September 27 in Rickard Chapel.

Youth Band: 4:15 - 5 p.m.

Children's Choir: 5:15 - 6 p.m.

Welcome Back to Preschool!

We are so excited to begin another wonderful school year! Our teachers have been busy preparing classrooms, planning engaging lessons, and creating many fun activities for the months ahead. We have missed having our preschoolers in the building—it has been so quiet without them—and we are thrilled to welcome everyone back!



We are looking forward to Parent Night and Meet the Teacher, where families will have the opportunity to meet our staff, explore the classrooms, and learn more about the exciting year ahead. We can't wait to welcome everyone and begin building strong partnerships with our preschool families.

We're also looking forward to our first field trip of the year to Westview Orchards in October. It promises to be a fun-filled day of learning and making special memories together.

If you know a family looking for a caring, Christ-centered preschool, please encourage them to contact us. I would be happy to answer any questions and schedule a tour of our school. You can reach us at preschool@stpaulsrochester.org.

Thank you for being such an important part of our preschool family. We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we begin another exciting year of learning, growing, and sharing God's love.

Warm regards,
Michelle Staarmann
Preschool Director

High School Youth Group

All 9th - 12th graders & their friends
Sundays beginning September 13
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 13 Youth Group Kick Off!
September 20 YouLead
September 27 Stronger Together



Middle School Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends
Sundays beginning September 13
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 13 Youth Group Kick Off!
September 20 YouLead
Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting
September 27 Together is Better



Food is good for the soul
Meet and Eat
Wednesday, September 2
6:30 p.m. at Olga's Kitchen
2580 N. Squirrel Rd.

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 13

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.



Bible Journaling

September 13 & 27
4 p.m. - 5 p.m. in the Lounge
Enter through the outside Lounge door.
All supplies are provided. HS girls are welcome. RSVP to Jodi at Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org if interested.

Confirmation Youth & Parent Meeting

September 20; 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 20 to discuss the calendar and expectations and share a meal with youth group at 6:30 p.m.** Classes run September 27 through Confirmation on May 16. Cost for the class is \$100. Registration forms can be found on the Confirmation page at stpaulsrochester.org. **Register by September 22** by returning forms to church or emailing them to Debbie@stpaulsrochester.org.





Holy Communion

Sunday, September 6; 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 14

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 20

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 20 & November 29

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 2026

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

6	Luke 6:27-38	Grace Under Pressure	Rev. Dulworth
13	SeptemberFEST Fall Kick-off Celebration Children, Youth & Adult Programming Resume		
	Acts 2:42-47	Better Together	Rev. Dulworth
20	Baptisms		
	Ephesians 4:25-32	The Truth That Heals	Rev. Dulworth
27	John 13:34-45	Love Anyway	Rev. May

SERMON SERIES September

Looking Ahead...

October

- 3rd Men's Breakfast
- Support for Caregivers
- 4th World Communion Sunday
- 9-10th Rummage Sale
- 15th SPARK Book Group
- UWF Book Club
- 19th Blood Drive
- 20th JOY
- Foodie Fun Fellowship
- 21st Bedtime Ritual Program
- 24th Early Bird Art & Craft Fair
- 25th Generosity Sunday
- 30th HITH Concert