

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

October 2026



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

October 2026

Pastor's Message

don't let go

In September 2010, Steve Wampler began climbing the 3,000-foot granite wall of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park. Six days later, he reached the top. That would be an incredible accomplishment for anyone. But Steve became the first person with cerebral palsy to do it. Steve ordinarily used an electric wheelchair, and he spent 18 months preparing for the climb. Once on El Capitan, every pull lifted him just four to six inches. Four to six inches at a time. Again and again - until those few inches became 3,000 feet.

Steve Wampler reminds us that sometimes the seemingly impossible happens when we hold on, keep moving, and trust that small steps can take us somewhere we never imagined.

That's why our 2027 Generosity Campaign is called **Don't Let Go!** In 1 Thessalonians 5:21, Paul encourages us to "hold fast to what is good." And there is so much good worth holding onto at St. Paul's.

Over the coming weeks, we're going to share some of that good with you. We'll celebrate the lives being changed, the ministry happening right now, and some of the dreams we believe God is inviting us to reach toward in 2027. We'll also invite each of us to consider how we can take another step in faith and generosity to help make those dreams possible. Because generosity isn't simply about funding a church budget. It's about participating in what God is doing through us.

So hang on! There's more to come! And together, let's see just how high God might be calling St. Paul's to climb. To discover more of the good we're already up to, check out this edition of The Evangel or visit stpaulsrochester.org.

Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor



Generosity Campaign

War, poverty, homelessness, grief, division, strife, inflation, violence, and the list goes on. When the mountains seem too high and we feel ready to fall off the face of the rock wall before us, we cling to our faith in God and to one another. Together, we discover what truly matters as we bring the world to a higher place...the mountain of the Lord's house.

"The mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains... and all nations shall stream to it."
Isaiah 2:2

On the way, we remember and witness to the world around us that nothing is impossible with God who gives us just what we need at the right time for the journey, but whatever you do...

don't let go

Join us this October in praying, "God, where do you want me to be in my giving to St. Paul's?" as we discover how our generosity impacts our communities and the world around us and transforms our own lives as well.

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



St. Paul's Just for Fun!

Sunday, October 18

5 - 6:30 p.m.

On the Patio

Hang out with us! Enjoy family-fun activity including rock climbing wall, snacks, and games. In the event of inclement weather, Just for Fun will be held in Hickey Hall.



Need a prayer?
I'm here for you.

Prayer Ministry Team

Here to Pray with You

Most people have something on their hearts they pray about. St. Paul's Prayer Ministry team is available to pray with you. Look for red heart badges and a blessing in prayer.



Exciting Update!

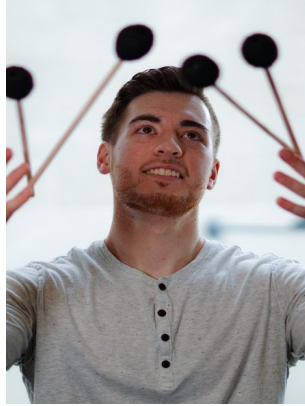
Transforming St. Paul's

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 & Beth Talbert

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Halloween Spectacular Justin Lamb, Dr. Seung Hee Cho & Ann Arbor Woodwind Quartet

Friday, October 30; 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for an evening of Halloween classics and spooky songs at this spellbinding Harmony in the Hills performance by the talented Justin Lamb on marimba, and the Ann Arbor Woodwind Quartet featuring Trey Bradshaw, flute, Tim Michling, oboe, Elliott Ross, clarinet and Christian Green, bassoon. The evening will feature a special treat from our own Dr. Seung Hee Cho. Admission is free, but donations are always appreciated.

Loneliness Workshop

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

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

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.



Open Table

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

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!

Cancer Support Group

Tuesdays, September 29 - November 10
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.



Prayer Shawl Ministries

Tuesday, October 13; 1 - 2:30 p.m. in Room 132

All crafts are welcome to work together, sharing and celebrating each other. Contact Donna Heflin at 248- 505-6413 by text with any questions.



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, October 20; 12 p.m. in Hickey Hall

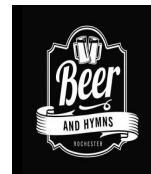
It's time to put JOY back into your life! Everyone 65 and beyond is invited to the Just Older Youth monthly lunch. We meet at noon on the third Tuesday of the month. Bring a brown bag lunch.

Dessert, coffee and tea are provided. **Everyone is welcome!**

United Methodist Men's Breakfast
Saturday, October 3
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 davidrdesteiger@gmail.com.



Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, October 13
7 p.m. in the Parlor

The Beer & Hymns Folks are hosting Foodie Fun Fellowship. Bring someone with you! The community is welcome.



SPARK Book Group

Thursday, October 15
1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us as we read *Apostle's Cove* by William Kent Krueger. We welcome new members! Contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.

UWF Book Club

Thursday, October 15
5:30 p.m. in Room 132

Join our stimulating discussion of *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. 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.





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

HUGS is St. Paul's multi-generational Mom's group. Our meetings are designed for busy women on the go, with little homework, and great discussions! Even when we schedule a multi-week series, each week runs independently of the others, so you can join when you can without feeling like you are missing something. Our most up to date info will be in our emails, private Facebook page or our Instagram page. Please reach out to Sue Evans at suecamevans@yahoo.com or Amanda Sgarlata at stpaulhugs@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to either method of communication.

Our theme this year is Galatians 6:9; "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." We'll consider how to remain steadfast and hope-filled as we act as God's voice and hands in the world. Along the way, we will investigate meaningful prayer practices to keep us steady.

Scan QR code to reserve childcare. HUGS observes the Rochester Community Schools calendar. When schools are closed, HUGS will not meet.



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 1 at 7 p.m. in Parlor.
Book discussion of *Theo of Golden* and *Project Hail Mary*.

Executive Board Meeting: Thursday, October 15; 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.



2026 Fall Rummage Sale

Friday,
October 9

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday,
October 10

9 a.m. - noon

Join in this GIANT Mission Project!

Drop off Days:

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

Tuesday, Oct 6; 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.



EARLY BIRD HOLIDAY

ART & CRAFT FAIR

Local Vendors · Original Handmade Artwork & Crafts

Saturday, October 24

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Shop! · Snack Bar!

Save the date for holiday shopping!

Missions

Mission Update

Thank you again for your continued generosity throughout the year! To date, St. Paul's has been able to provide the following support to our mission partners:

Baldwin Center	\$2,000
Cass Community Social Services	\$2,500
Henri Dennis School (Scholarships)	\$10,225
Kids Empowered on the Move	\$10,000
Micah 6 Community	\$10,000
Rochester Area Neighborhood House	\$5,500
	Over 1,200 lbs of food
UMCOR-Hurricane Relief	\$4,300

In addition to funds, you have provided countless hours preparing and serving food to our neighbors. How great to be part of a community of faith that joyfully steps in to serve where needed!

Prayers for Red Bird Mission Team

Please keep our adult mission team in your prayers as seven volunteers from the St. Paul's community journey to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky, October 4 - 9. We will be working on helping to improve homes in the area as well as support the onsite missions that Red Bird offers to the community.



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 to track your donation.



St. Paul's Preschool Happenings

Happy Fall! We are off to another great start to a new school year! Our preschoolers are adjusting nicely and are happy to see old friends while making new ones. Our teachers have planned many fun lessons and activities centered around fall, apples, and pumpkins. The building always smells wonderful when our preschoolers are busy making apple pies and applesauce!

We are looking forward to our first field trip to Westview Orchards, where we will pick apples and pumpkins and enjoy cider and donuts. It is sure to be a fun-filled day! The big blue bus from the Rochester Library will begin visiting us in October. We always enjoy the wonderful stories, songs, and the opportunity to choose new books to take home.

Our Parent & Me class will also begin again. It is always so much fun to introduce little ones to all the excitement that school has to offer!

Thank you for your continued support of our preschool. We are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, laughter, and lots of fun! If you know of anyone looking for a preschool, I would love to share more information with them and give them a tour of our wonderful preschool.

Warm regards,
Michelle Staarmann



High School Worktrip

Parent Information Meeting

Sunday, October 18; 5 p.m. in Hickey Hall

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 2027 trip.** We will discuss fundraisers, expenses, and other details about this week of service.



Sleep Seminar

Help Your Child Sleep Better

Wednesday, October 21

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Rickard Chapel

Get expert advice and proven strategies for exhausted parents from Sasha

Croswell. Presented by St. Paul's Preschool. RSVP by October 12 to Amy@stpaulsrochester.org with name, email, phone number & number attending.

Sunday Mornings for Children

Plan to join our wonderful leaders in the children's ministry wing each week for **Sunday School in Room 126** and **childcare in Room 127**.

Our kindergarteners through 5th graders meet together for Sunday School during both 9:30 and 11 a.m. worship. **Please have them join you in worship and then walk them down when it's time.**

Children younger than kindergarten can come to childcare prior to worship and stay throughout the service.



We have many new faces serving this year, so stop by and say hello!

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 4	Movie Night in Sanctuary
Oct 11	No Youth Group
Oct 18	Don't Let Go!
Oct 25	Spooky Event



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 4	Movie Night in Sanctuary
Oct 11	No Youth Group
Oct 18	Just for Fun!
Oct 25	Spooky Event



Food is good for the soul

Meet & Eat

Wednesday, October 14

6:30 p.m. Brads BBQ

6525 23 Mile Rd. Shelby Twp.

All High School students and friends are welcome.

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



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

Sunday, October 4; 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 11

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

Stop by between services to have your blood pressure checked.



Blood Drive

Monday, October 19

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, 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.



Rummage Sale

Drop off days:

Monday, October 5

5 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sale Days:

Friday, October 9

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 10

9 a.m. - noon

Volunteers always needed!

See more Rummage Sale information on page 5.



Looking Ahead...

November

- 1st All Saints Sunday
- 7th UMM Breakfast
Support for Caregivers
- 9th Blood Drive
- 12th Annual Church Conference
- 15th Wedding Vow Renewal
New Member Class
Night of 1000 Blessings
- 17th Just Older Youth
Beer & Hymns
- 19th SPARK Book Group
UWF Book Group
- 20th Harmony in the Hills Concert
- 22nd That Takes the Cake Sale
Hanging of the Greens
- 26th Happy Thanksgiving
Church closed
- 27th Church closed
- 29th 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

4 Don't Let Go! • World Communion Sunday

John 6:1-13

Holding On... Open Handed

Rev. Dulworth

11 2 Corinthians 4:1, 7-12 Trust God for Great Things

Rev. Kress

18 1 Thessalonians 5:14-24 What We Hold Onto

Rev. Dulworth

25 Generosity Sunday

Galatians 6:9-10

Things That Connect Us

Rev. Dulworth

SERMON SERIES October