

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

November 2026



St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

November 2026

Pastor's Message

Slow Down, Look Around, & Give Thanks

November invites us to slow down, look around, and give thanks. And in a world where it's easy to focus on what's wrong, perhaps gratitude is exactly what we need!



We'll begin the month with All Saints Sunday, remembering those whose lives and faith have shaped our own. Our new sermon series, Thank You Note, will take us through Paul's letter to the Philippians, reminding us that gratitude isn't simply something we express when life is good. It's a way of living that can transform our relationships, renew our perspective, and fill us with joy. Of course, gratitude is about more than words. It's about action!

On Sunday, November 15, from 5 to 7 p.m., I hope you'll join us for our Night of 1,000 Blessings, as we come together to assemble rice meal kits that will provide more than 14,400 meals for people experiencing hunger. Together, our small acts of love will make a difference far beyond the walls of St. Paul's. What a wonderful way to turn thanksgiving into thanks-living!

As November draws to a close, we'll begin the season of Advent with Hanging of the Greens and an invitation to join one of small groups for our Advent study, **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**, based on the book by Andy Langford and Ann Langford Duncan.

From remembering the saints to feeding the hungry to preparing for Christ's coming, November reminds us that gratitude isn't just something we say.
It's something we live!

Blessings,
Elbert Dulworth
Senior Pastor



Give God Thanks Prayer Vigil

Sunday, November 8

4 - 7 p.m. in Sanctuary & Narthex

The Prayer Ministry Team invites you to come, refresh, and pray on Sunday, November 8. Come for a short time or stay a while to pray. You can:

- Have private prayer
- Color while you pray
- Write a letter to God
- Walk the labyrinth
- Write your concerns to God and watch them wash away
- Pray scriptures on thanks
- Receive prayer and anointing
- Take part in it all!

Make this a special time between you and God.

**Come! Refresh your spirit!
Pray and give God thanks!**



St. Paul's Potluck & Church Conference

Thursday, November 12 in Hickey Hall

6 p.m. Potluck Dinner; 7 p.m. Church Conference & Celebration

Bring a dish to pass and remain for our Church Conference presided by Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty, District Superintendent of the Greater Detroit District. Whether you are a long-time member or a newer guest, all are welcome to attend. If you would like to volunteer and help with the evening or have any questions, please contact Rachel Henry at rachel@stpaulsrochester.org or call the church office.



Marriage Renewal Service

Sunday, November 15
9:30 & 11 a.m. services
 Couples celebrating their 5th, 10th wedding anniversary, etc. (in 5-year increments), or any anniversary over 50 years, are invited to participate.

Call the office at 248-651-9361 by **Monday, October 26** to have names printed in the worship program.

Change for 2027

Next year Marriage Renewal Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, February 14.

If you will be celebrating a milestone anniversary in 2027, **please make note of this change.**



SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER
 of Southeastern Michigan

St. Paul's Welcomes New Counselor

St. Paul's is excited to welcome Parina to our onsite Samaritan Counseling Center. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Registered Art Therapist, working with individual clients ages 6 to 21 years old. Parina earned a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in Art Therapy from Wayne State University.



Additional areas of focus include child development and education, building self-esteem and confidence in children, working with groups of children on developing healthy relationships, bullying, communication skills, personal hygiene, and emotional wellness.

Parina will be working onsite on Wednesdays and is presently planning an Art Therapy presentation and a class. If you may be interested in connecting with Parina for counseling services, please contact Samaritan Counseling at 248-474-4781.

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Harvest Golden

Tian Tian, Alta Dantzler & Drake Dantzler
Friday, November 20

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for a spectacular evening of classical piano performed, by the gifted Tian Tian and the enchanting voices of Alta Dantzler, alto, and Drake Dantzler, tenor. Tian will perform the works of Schubert, Gershwin and Liszt. The Dantzlers will delight attendees with selections by Debussy, Strauss, Schubert and others appropriate for the final days of autumn.

Admission is free.
Donations greatly appreciated.



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 22

After 11 a.m. worship

Join us in decorating St. Paul's for the Advent season. We will gather for a light lunch in the Parlor after the 11 a.m. service. Afterwards, we will set up and decorate trees throughout the church.



NEW! Save the Date

Empty Nesters

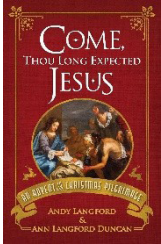
Sunday, December 6 & 20; 10:30 - 11 a.m. in the Parlor

Prayerful and supportive we will offer devotions and discussion to navigate changes in our lives as emerging empty nesters. Come as you are to deepen your faith and to build lasting relationships. Rachel Henry and Jodi Stuermer will co-facilitate to launch this new ministry. Come before or after worship.

Classes & Groups



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

**Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus:
An Advent to Christmas Pilgrimage**

by Andy Langford & Ann Langford Duncan
Fridays, November 6 - December 4

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

Come, join us as we take a pilgrimage from messianic prophecies in Isaiah to John the Baptist, to Mary—the mother of Jesus, to the first witnesses: the angels, shepherds, Simeon & Anna as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. 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 Nancy Fidler at nnfidler@gmail.com.

Leaders: Nancy Fidler & Jean Meyers



J.O.Y. Just Older Youth

Tuesday, November 17; 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!**



Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, November 17

**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.



Christmas According to the Bible

Monday, November 30; 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the Parlor

The Christmas story is wondrous and beautiful. But what does the Bible really say—and not say—about the first Advent when Jesus was born? Looking at Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2, we'll see for ourselves what the story meant to Matthew and to Luke and then consider what it means to us.

Led by Pastor Rick Kress

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, November 7
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.



SPARK Book Group

**Thursday, November 19
1:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

Join us as we read *The Hidden Life of Cecily Larson* by Ellen Baker. We welcome new members! Contact Linda Burnard at 248-765-5511.



UWF Book Club

**Thursday, November 19
5:30 p.m. in Room 132**

Join our stimulating discussion of *Still Dreaming/Seguimos Sonando* by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez. A children's picture book about a young Mexican boy and his family making their way back to the US in the 30's. Contact Nancy Shannon at nancgs@aol.com with questions.



THANK YOU!

Rummage Sale Results Raised \$22,700 for Missions

Thank you to all our volunteers — you are amazing! Thanks to all who donated items and food. Thanks to all who purchased items. Proceeds will be given to charities supported by the United Women in Faith.

Thank you to ALL who made this sale a GIANT success!

United Women in Faith

We Believe Love in Action Can Change the World

November Circle Meetings

- **Faith Circle** - Wednesday, November 11 at 1 p.m. in the Library.
- **Patience Circle** - Thursday, November 12 at 9 a.m. in the Parlor. Connecting - Make Thanksgiving cards for homebound.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday November 19 at 7 p.m. in Rickard Chapel. Planning for next year.

Executive Board Meetings: Thursday, November 19; 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
Spend-Down Meeting is Tuesday, December 8; 9 a.m. in the Parlor.



United Women in Faith

That Takes the Cake Sale

Sunday, November 22

9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the Narthex

Homemade coffee cakes and other treats will be for sale with proceeds supporting UWF missions locally and around the world. Drop off coffee cakes Saturday, November 21 between 12 - 2 p.m. in the Narthex. Items must be individually wrapped for sale. Contact Jane Chamberlain at 586-323-2537.



St. Paul's Preschool Happenings

Happy Fall!

The preschoolers are enjoying all that the fall season has to offer! October was a very busy and exciting month for our preschool.

- We enjoyed our first field trip of the school year to Westview Orchards, where the children had a wonderful time picking apples and pumpkins, enjoying cider and donuts, and visiting the animals.
- We were also delighted to welcome author Glenys Nellist, who shared her beautiful book **Bedtime Blessings** with us. We had such a wonderful time with her and enjoyed hearing her story.
- To wrap up a fun-filled month, we celebrated with a Halloween party and parade! Our students looked adorable in their costumes, and our parents and church community helped make the day extra special by passing out fun treats.

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving, we are reminded of how many blessings we have to be thankful for. We are especially grateful for our wonderful preschoolers and their families, our church community, and all of our friends and supporters. Wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving season filled with joy, gratitude, and all of God's wonderful blessings!

Warm regards,

Ms. Michelle Staarmann

St. Paul's Preschool Director





Night of 1000 Blessings - BLESSINGS BAGS Sunday, November 15; 5 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Our Night of 1000 Blessings will be centered around supporting folks who are in need of food. We will be recruiting MANY volunteers to assemble nutritional bags for distribution by Midwest Mission for international and domestic relief. We would like as many people as possible to participate, so this year have set up the event with rotating one-hour shifts on the assembly lines. We also have a need for volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up. If you would like to be a volunteer for this event, scan the QR code to sign up and secure a good spot. **This is a great mission opportunity for families!**



Mission Partner Christmas Stores

Several of our mission partners host Christmas Stores, and there will be many opportunities to support them throughout November and December. Scan the QR code to see our **Mission Opportunities list** for the latest updates and check back regularly to find donation and/or volunteer opportunities that speak to you!



Baldwin Center

Saturday, November 14, 21, & December 5
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Receive/sort Christmas donations

Christmas Stores More info & signup links coming soon!
Scan QR code to get the most updated information.

Rochester Area Neighborhood House
December 15 & 16; times TBD

Baldwin Center

December 17, 18 & 19; 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 - 5 p.m.
December 20; 12:30 - 5 p.m.

Micah 6 Community

December 19, time slots between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Christmas Food Mission Project 2026

Again this year, St. Paul's has committed to help 100 families with our partners at Rochester Area Neighborhood House. We will again provide gift certificates from a local supermarket chain to Neighborhood House clients as a way of making their Christmas a little brighter. There will be ways to get involved in this wonderful project, so watch for details in the Connector.



To make a financial donation, please write "Christmas Baskets" on the envelope and on the memo line of your check made out to St. Paul's UMC or scan the QR code to **Give Online** and select **Christmas Baskets** on the drop-down menu.



Meet & Eat

Thursday, November 19
6:30 p.m. at Juan Blancos
1655 E. Auburn Rd. Rochester Hills
All High School students and friends are welcome. Dinner is FREE. RSVP to Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org.



Halloween Candy Leftovers

We need your leftover Halloween candy! We will send it off to our college students so they can feel our love from afar. Drop candy in the church office or in Room 206.

College Address Reminder

St. Paul's wants to keep in touch with your college student throughout the year and send them a care package in early December.

Parents: If you would like your college student to receive a care package, please email his/her address to Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org by **November 9**. Thanks!

MS Youth Group

All 6th - 8th graders & their friends

Sundays; 5 - 7 p.m. Hickey Hall

Nov 1 No Youth Group
Nov 8 Operation Christmas Child, Bring \$12

Nov 15 Night of 1000 Blessings

Nov 22 Decorate Christmas Trees/You Lead

Nov 29 No Youth Group - Happy Thanksgiving



HS Youth Group All 9th - 12th graders & their friends

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

Nov 1 No Youth Group
Nov 8 Operation Christmas Child, Bring \$12
Nov 15 Night of 1000 Blessings
Nov 22 College Care Packages/You Lead
Nov 29 No Youth Group - Happy Thanksgiving

Sign up today!

High School Worktrip Registrations Due Nov 15

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, grow in their faith, and bond with other youth. Email Jodi Stuermer at Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org with any questions.



Thank You, Krista Hughes!

Sixteen Years of Faithful Love

For over sixteen years, Krista Hughes has been the heart behind our youth group. Through every season, every change in leadership, and every new group of students, she has shown up with a faithful, loving presence.

She is kind in a way that makes every young person feel seen. She is organized in a way that made our events run smoothly. And she has been loyal in a way that is rare: a true partner who helped me plan, carried the load beside me, and never wavered.

Generations of students have been shaped by her quiet, steady example. Her fingerprints are on countless lives, and she may never fully know how far her impact reaches.

Krista, thank you for sixteen years of your time, your love, and your faithfulness. You will be deeply missed, and what you've built will carry on. Although Krista has moved on from youth ministries, she has continued to lead. She currently serves as a Laity Leader. Please join me in congratulating and celebrating Krista.



With deep gratitude and love,
Jodi, Youth Ministry Team and Students



Holy Communion

Sunday, November 1; 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, November 8

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, November 9

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.



stpaulsrochester.org/preschool

Preschool Teacher Needed

St. Paul's Preschool is looking for a teacher for our 3's preschool class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Apply online at stpaulsrochester.org (Employment Opportunities quick link).

Looking Ahead... December

- 1st Christmas and Candlelight
- 3rd SPARK Luncheon
- 4th Advent Concert at noon
- 5th UMM Breakfast
- 6th Support for Caregivers
- Cass Breakfast
- Rochester Community
- Christmas Concert at St. Paul's
- 7th Poinsettia Orders Due
- Blood Drive
- 11th Advent Concert at noon
- RSO Concert 8 p.m.
- 12th A Merry Little Christmas Party
- 13th Cookie Sale
- 15th JOY Just Older Youth
- Beer & Carols
- 17th Blue Christmas Services
- 20th All Music Sunday
- Poinsettia Sunday
- 23rd Christmas Eve Eve - 6 p.m.
- 24th Christmas Eve Worship
- Family Service - 4 p.m.
- Candlelight Service - 7 p.m.
- Candlelight Service - 10 p.m.
- 25th Merry Christmas! Office Closed
- 27th Worship 9:30 a.m. Hickey Hall
- 31st New Year's Eve Office Closed

SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

The Open Door Service

9:30 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Traditional Service

11 a.m. in Sanctuary

1 All Saints Sunday

Philippians 1:3-11

Because of You

Rev. Dulworth

8 Philippians 1:12-26

Finding Joy Anyway

Rev. May

15 Marriage Renewal Sunday

Philippians 4:10-13

The Secret

Rev. Kress

22 Philippians 4:4-9

The Peace That Says Thanks

Rev. Dulworth

29 First Sunday in Advent • Baptism

Isaiah 2:1-5

Before You Even Begin

Rev. Dulworth

SERMON SERIES November