



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

The Slate 2.0

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2020

St. Paul's UMC

201 S. Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161
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stpaulsmonroe@
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stpaulsumcmonroe.org

Office Hours:
Monday

9:00am - 1:00pm

Tuesday - Thursday
9:00am - 3:00pm

Friday
CLOSED



Do you have a prayer request you'd like your church family to know about? Contact the church office so we can alert the Prayer Chain. If you'd like to be part of the prayer chain, let us know! (Please note: due to the confident nature of some prayer requests, we always seek the permission of those the prayer request involves before we send it out in the prayer chain. Thank you for your understanding).

Living Faithfully

Human Sexuality
and The United
Methodist
Church

A Four-Week Small Group Study

Upcoming Book Studies:

Starting Thursday, February 6th, we will study the book "Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and the United Methodist Church".

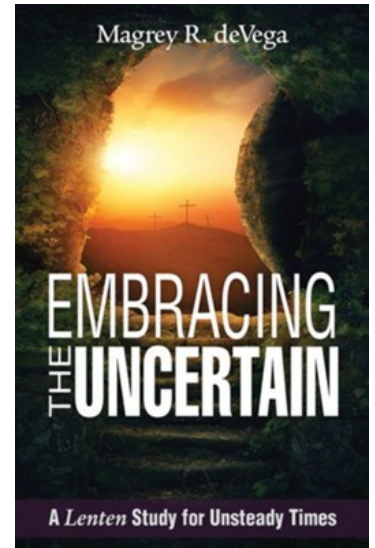
Pastor Melodye will lead in respectful discussion for four weeks. The same class will be offered at both 10:30 am and 7:00 pm each week. You can choose which time works for you!

Books for this study are \$9 each. You can sign up at the church or you can call the church office to let us know you want to attend.

Starting Wednesday, March 4th, we will have our Lenten Study for six weeks at 6:00 pm. We will study the book "Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times".

Pastor Melodye will be leading this study as well.

Books for this study will be \$8 each and again, you can sign up at the church, or you can call to let us know you'll be attending.



Also, don't forget about the Worship Survey that was mailed out in January! You can pick up a copy at the church, or visit our website (www.stpaulsumcmonroe.org) and click on the link on the homepage to take the survey online! Your opinion really is important, and we want to hear what you have to say!

Friends & Family Game Night



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Friday, Feb. 7

Join us for a fun filled Family Game Night!

Potluck begins at 5:30PM, games at 6:00PM

Sloppy Joes, beverages, tableware, games provided.

Bring a dish to pass and your family and friends!

* If Monroe Public Schools closes schools due to weather, the event will be cancelled *

February UMYF Schedule:

February 2:

9am-Usher (be here at 8:30am)

10am - Super Bowl Sub Sale

NO evening meeting

February 9:

9am-Usher (be here at 8:30am)

6pm - UMYF meeting

February 16:

9am-Usher (be here at 8:30am)

6pm - UMYF meeting

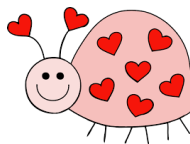
February 23: Youth Sunday

9am-Usher (be here at 8:30am)

9am - Lead Worship

11am - Usher / Lead Worship

NO evening meeting



Scholarship Committee Announcement:

Once again we are able to celebrate the achievement of some of the young adults in our church with the awarding of scholarship grants. The Scholarship Committee is honored to grant these gifts of support to: Hope Brophy, Alexa Cooley, Audrey Cooley, Isabella Hunter, Rebecca Hunter, Jack Ingles, Katelyn Ingles, Lauren McCain, Emily Myers, Tori Pirlot, Allison Rathbun, Brook Shugarman, Taylor Thompson, and Sarah Wangbickler. This year's gifts total \$4,400.00

Scholarship funding comes from contributions earmarked now, and in the past, from church members and families as memorials, honorariums, and outright gifts and donations as well as estate giving. There is also a separate Scholarship Endowment account established many years ago. If you would like to know more about how to give funds specifically to this area of the church, please contact the office.

Lift these young people and their families up in your thoughts and prayers as they more forward on life's journey.



Christ Kids will meet every Wednesday in February from 6:00pm - 7:30pm, even Ash Wednesday (February 26).

****Inclement weather notice**:**

Please note if Monroe Public Schools is closed due to inclement weather, St. Paul's will also cancel Christian Education activities for that day. If in doubt, contact the church office or Alisha Cooley

Thoughts On Giving

It's a daunting task – a new year.

Opportunity, a clean slate, changes to be made.

As you review your list of goals:

check off successes, evaluate the rough spots, make adjustments.

I ask you to consider your giving to St. Paul's. Is it part of your list?

If it isn't, consider adding it.

I did this, and when I did, I took time and thought about all that St Paul's has to offer.

And I realized that there is a lot:

- local and national charities,
- helping families at Thanksgiving and Christmas,
- the music,
- the relationships,
- the learning,
- supporting members in need,
- and the foundation the church builds for the youth
– I have been exceptionally grateful for that.
- the teaching of strong Christian values.



I ask everyone to think about all of this – and the potential to give even a little bit more.

Could you give up a few cups of coffee a week?

Take your lunch to work four days instead of three?

Have leftovers a couple more times than you usually do?

Maybe switch to electronic giving, or consult someone on tax free opportunities? There are so many other ways to support St. Paul's as well – invite a friend to come, spread the word!

The value is there.

There have been quite a few changes over the past few years and change isn't always comfortable, but change is good. It is the opportunity to continue to build on the history of St. Paul's.

Those that are new – think about how you can contribute to a bright and exciting future.

Long time members – celebrate all the great experiences you have had.

Together, we can make it happen!

St. Paul's United Methodist Church Staff	
Pastor	Rev. Meloyde Surgeon VanOudheusden
Director of Christian Education	Alisha Cooley
Director of Music	John C. Tyner
Director of Children's Choirs	Elise Dinwoody
Organist	Jay Jacobs
Office Personnel	Cathy Butson and Susan Myers
Treasurer	Jeanette Fedosky
Financial Secretary	Linda Spenoso
Custodial Staff	Kelly Leask, Dale Rathbun, Brian Metzger, Theresa Rathbun, Ron Ivey, John Fedosky, Alison Roa-Garcia
Nursery Staff	Jacob Gladieux, Audrey Cooley, Kaitlyn Volpi, Kylie Jacobs

January was a harsh month for St. Paul's - weather-wise and attendance-wise. Our givings in January were exceedingly low. We also ended 2019 with very little carry-over to help get us through the month. Unfortunately, the bills continued to come during January, and we are already desperately behind in our obligations. Added to our daily needs, the boilers needed over \$3000 in repairs, and the big (40 - year old!) refrigerator has died and we need to replace it for something over \$3400. So, if you have already traveled to sunnier weather, or have missed us for some other reason, please remember that we will be here when you return, but if you can send in your offering before you get back, we would really appreciate it. Thank you.

Did you know: United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice. Within the structure of the United Methodist Church, St. Paul's UMC, and therefore St. Paul's UMW, are part of the Heritage District, the Michigan Conference, and the North Central Jurisdiction. Below are listed a number of opportunities for us to meet other women of faith and learn about the missions of the greater church:



Heritage District UMW Prayer Brunch: Saturday, March 28th, 2020 from 9:00am—12:00pm at Dixboro UMC in Ann Arbor.

Mission U: This provides study programs on topics of interest within the church. There are four Mission U opportunities ranging from one day to four days on different dates in various cities. When more details are available, the information will be posted on the UMW bulletin board.

Heritage District Annual Meeting & Celebration: Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 8:00am—3:30pm at Saline UMC.

Michigan Conference UMW Celebration and Meeting: Saturday, October 24th, 2020 from 9:00am—3:30pm at First UMC of Kalamazoo.

2020 North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial: June 26-28, 2020 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. If you are interested in learning more about any of the above activities, contact Susan or Cathy at the church office, or one of us. To learn more about the next St. Paul's UMW meeting, check out the March issue of the *Slate*.

“Christ has no body now but yours; no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which His compassion looks out upon the world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do Good. Yours are the hands with which He Blesses all the world.” - Theresa of Avila

-Sue Fleming and Kathy Heatherly

2020 UMW Reading Program:

The 2020 reading list is on the UMW website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram.

Education for Mission: *When Others Shuddered: Eight Women Who Refused To Give Up*

Leadership Development: *Vital Voices: The Power of Women Leading Change Around the World*

Nurturing Community: *The Aging of Aquarius: Igniting Passion and Purpose As An Elder*

Social Action: *The Fig Tree Revolution: Unleashing Local Churches Into The Mission of Justice*

Spiritual Growth: *God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians For The Anxious Church*

For more information about the United Methodist Church, please visit umc.org.

Our Michigan UMC Conference information can be found at michiganumc.org.

St. Paul's is part of the Heritage District, and that website is heritage.michiganumc.org.

The United Methodist Church

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Doors

February Worship Leaders

Date:	February 2 9:00am	February 9 9:00am	February 16 9:00am	February 23 9:00am
Ushers:	UMYF	UMYF	UMYF	UMYF
Acolytes:	Sophia Nolff and Caitlyn Nolff	Joseph Dinwoody	Jimmy Maylen	Alex Roa
Liturgist:	Randy Lee	Denise Shugarman	Rhonda Schmidt	UMYF
Communion Stewards:	Jannet Low, Taiya Himebauch			
	11:00 am	11:00 am	11:00 am	11:00am
Ushers:	Cheryl Brophy, Julie Linn, Yvonne Gnaedinger	Pascale Clevinger, Karen Zeestraten, Gordon Doster	Tom Paterson, Bob Paterson, Jerry Spence, Will Paterson	UMYF
Acolytes:	Josie Mehki and Emmett Mehki	Harrison Tyner and Marilyn Tyner	Jack Benavente and Kate Benavente	Alex Roa
Liturgist:	Duane Bair	Yvonne Gnaedinger	Ann Nickel-Swinkey	UMYF
Communion Stewards:	Sally Jaynes, JoAnne Lynch			



Have you ever wondered about the effects of our **scholarship grants**? For the next few months check back in the newsletter for short biographies of some of our past recipients as we report on what they are doing now. Know that your gifts of prayers, support and monies were important contributions to these members of St. Paul's family. And if you would like to see your family featured, please contact the office with your personal information

Jason Salisbury, a recipient in the late '90's went onto Michigan State University, earning a Bachelor's degree. He later earned a Master's degree from the University of Illinois, and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin. He is currently an associate professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago, in the School of Education.

Troy Wiseman, a student in the late '80's, received a BS in business from the University of Toledo. He is currently a team manager with a computer firm in Canton.

Laura Rayce Swisher, mid '90's, graduated from the University of Toledo with a BS and Juris Doctorate from the University of Toledo College of Law. She is currently in private practice in the Columbus, Ohio area with the firm of Sybert, Rhoad, Lackey and Swisher.

St. Paul's Church Family:

Prayer concerns, Birthdays, and other information about your St. Paul's church family.

Remember in your prayers...

St. Paul's has been praying for the following members over the past month for various reasons. Please continue to pray for them, that the Lord will give them what they need most right now...

Sharon Balk, Dale Rathbun, Mary Anne Bair, Brad Lewis,
Sandy McMurry and family (in the loss of Sandy's mother), Lou McMurry,
Cindy Miller and family (in the loss of Cindy's grandson)

February Birthday List

2 - Jonathan Morr
3 - Harriet Welch
4 - Kelly Smith
5 - Jennifer Benavente, Kelly Robert Leask
6 - Heaven Lambert
7 - Julie Pillarelli
9 - Cynthia Cichy, Emma Lee
12 - Brandon Dutton
13 - Karen Zeestraten
14 - Alice Hoffman
15 - Paul Stanifer, Mary Vergowven
19 - Franklin Hudkins
20 - Sally Jaynes, Stephanie Metzger
22 - Samuel Low
23 - Rhonda Schmidt
24 - Adel Ivey, Velma Mumby
26 - Pascale Clevinger, Barbara Pierce
27 - John Cichy
28 - Colleen Baker

March Birthday List

2 - Dorothy Mortiboy
5 - Josie Mehki
7 - Kyle Rouser
8 - Audrey Cooley
11 - Cathy Brodie, Blaine Zimmerman
12 - Christopher Butson
14 - Griffin Linn
16 - Lynne Allen
17 - Chloe Pabin
18 - Kelsey Pabin
22 - Jordyn Helser-Young, Kendall Himebauch,
Cathy Spalding
23 - John Salisbury
26 - Kaylee Allen, Charlotte Dinwoody,
Lauren McCain, Taylor Thompson
27 - Susan Helser, Fritz Shull
28 - Amy Smith
29 - Gabriella LaRoy
30 - Michelle Davis



*Did we miss someone?
Please be sure to contact the
office and let us know!

Organ Project Update

As you are well aware, we are raising money to do repairs to our beautiful organ. Total cost of the project is slightly over \$33,000.00 which thankfully is significantly less than we had projected. **We have raised just over \$25, 000.00.** Please remember that donations to this project should be in addition to your regular pledges and offerings. This giving will be sacrificial, but we know that God is good and will continue to sustain us. - John C. Tyner

Stewardship: Applying Biblical Principals February 2020

The writer of the book of Hebrews made this short but powerful statement about the Lord Jesus, "Consider him." That admonition is nowhere more needful than in the matter of giving and receiving.

Consider him, the Lord of glory, who gave his life so that we might gain eternal life. Consider him, who was rich, yet became poor for our sakes, that we through his poverty might be rich. Consider him, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Consider him, who was quoted by Dr. Luke in Acts 20:35 as saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Although many Christians would at first glance agree with that premise on an intellectual basis, by their lifestyles, they demonstrate that their lives are diametrically opposed to this biblical principle. They might even go so far as to state their agreement with what the Lord Jesus said, but not so far as to change their selfish "me first" attitude. They might give mental assent or even verbal assent to his teaching, but in reality, their lives are consumed by a passion for "receiving" instead of "giving." It is as though they pass through life's portals with this striking question emblazoned across their foreheads: "What's in it for me?"

Such an attitude should be foreign to the lives of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ. If our role in life is to follow him, and to obey him, we should demonstrate daily, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

God, who owns everything, gives material possessions freely and willingly to us, His children, for a number of reasons, but one of the primary reasons is for us to be able to give them back to him. Each time we give to the Lord's work out of a heart that responds to His love and grace, we give away a little of our selfishness and gain a bit more of Christ's sacrificial spirit. *As John MacArthur expressed it so well, "The major money issue in Scripture is not how you feel about it, or even how you spend it. The primary concern of Scripture is how you give it."*

Dr. Herschel Hobbs wrote this, "One of greed's victims read this verse, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' How revealing of his sordid, shriveled soul was his comment: 'Well, perhaps so, but receiving is good enough for me.'

Is receiving good enough for you? Would you rather be a beggar than a benefactor? a panhandler than a philanthropist? a blight than a blessing? a parasite than a producer? a getter than a giver?"

As you think about your answers to Dr. Hobbs' questions, and as you give of your resources to the Lord's work, "Consider Jesus." "Consider him" by remembering and obeying his words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."



Worship Committee Update

Saint Paul's UMC Worship Committee met on January 13th and discussed Worship services and ideas to make Worship a more engaging and meaningful experience at St. Paul's. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas about Worship and how we can make it more appealing to you and our community.

You should have received the congregational survey by now. If you would like extra copies, please contact the church office. You can also go to our website to print off copies if you need them, or you can follow a link to fill them out directly online, saving time and paper! We hope that you will see this survey as a serious instrument to share ideas about our services and how they affect your worship and faith. Please take time in prayer before completing the survey, and be honest with your answers. Through this process, we hope to glean important information from you as we move forward in our Worship planning.

There continues to be a need for additional ushers (especially in the 11:00am service) and greeters. Please take time and think about how you can help. Neither of these are demanding or complicated areas in which to serve, and can open the doors for others to see how great being involved at St. Paul's can be. Don't be afraid to hop in and volunteer if you see a need on a Sunday morning. You can call the office for more information, or just sign up on the bulletin board in the atrium. Be the smiling face and warm greeting for people attending Worship!

Advent and Christmas services were well attended and meaningful. We have received a few complaints about the candles used during our Christmas Eve services. Because of this, the Worship Committee will be purchasing new candle holders for next year's services that will eliminate the problem and allow us to continue the ancient practice of passing the light of Christ. Thank you to those who contacted us about this concern that certainly was solvable.

Youth Sunday will take place on Sunday, February 23rd. Our youth have designed and will present a meaningful Worship service at both 9am and 11am that Sunday.

During Lent we will remember the time of prayer and fasting the Lord spent in the desert before His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, his eventual crucifixion, and his glorious resurrection.

We begin with Ash Wednesday; February 26th. This year, Pastor Melodye will be available in the Fellowship Hall from 6am - 8am to administer ashes on a personal basis. Those who wish to may come and have a time of personal prayer and reflection, then receive ashes before heading out for the day. There will also be a service at 7pm in the Sanctuary that will have worship stations, music from the choir and congregation, and receipt of ashes.



Pastor Melodye will lead a Wednesday evening Lenten book study (see front page of newsletter for more information) on Wednesday evenings at 6pm starting March 4th.

We look forward to seeing you and worshipping with you on Sundays!

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00am-Worship w/Communion 10:00am - Sunday School 10:00am - UMYF Sub Sale 11:00am - Worship w/Communion	3	4 6:00pm - GodWorks!	5 9:30am-Mary/Martha Circle Crafters 12:00pm - Kiwanis 6:00pm - Christ Kids 6:15pm - Praise Ringers 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	6 10:00am - Sounds of Joy 10:30am - Human Sexuality Book Study 6:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:00pm - Human Sexuality Book Study	7 5:30 - Family Game Night	8
9 9:00am - Worship 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Worship 6:00pm - UMYF	10	11 12:00pm - Kiwanis Board Meeting 6:00pm - GodWorks! 6:00pm - Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00pm - Christian Education Meeting	12 12:00pm - Kiwanis 6:00pm - Christ Kids 6:15pm - Praise Ringers 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	13 10:00am - Sounds of Joy 10:30am - Human Sexuality Book Study 6:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:00pm - Human Sexuality Book Study	14	15 10am - Fellowship Hall in Use
16 9:00am - Worship 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Worship 6:00pm - UMYF	17	18 6:00pm - GodWorks!	19 9:30am-Mary/Martha Circle Crafters 12:00pm - Kiwanis 6:00pm - Christ Kids 6:15pm - Praise Ringers 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	20 10:00am - Sounds of Joy 10:30am - Human Sexuality Book Study 6:00pm - Boy Scouts 7:00pm - Human Sexuality Book Study	21	22
23 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:00am - Worship 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Worship	24	25 6:00pm - GodWorks!	26 Ash Wednesday 12:00pm - Kiwanis 6:00pm - Christ Kids 6:15pm - Praise Ringers 7:00pm - Ash Wed. Service 7:30pm - Chancel	27 10:00am - Sounds of Joy 10:30am - Human Sexuality Book Study 6:00pm - Boy Scouts 6:00pm - Relay for Life Pizza Palooza 7:00pm - Human Sexuality Book Study	28	29