



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

# The Slate 2.0

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2020

## St. Paul's UMC

201 S. Monroe Street  
Monroe, Michigan 48161  
734.242.3000

stpaulsmonroe@  
sbcglobal.net

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!



## \*\*Faith at the Movies\*\*



January 7



January 14



January 21



January 28



7:00pm Tuesdays in January  
At Phoenix Theaters in the Mall of Monroe  
**\$5 per person**

Then, join us in worship January 12th, 19th, 26th, and February 2nd to see a short clip and hear a sermon on that week's movie!

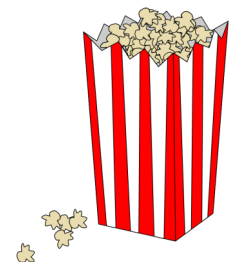
There are four local United Methodist Churches participating. Below are their Sunday Service times and addresses:

St. Paul's - 9:00am & 11:00am - 201 S. Monroe St.  
First - 11:00am - 312 Harrison St.  
Calvary - 9:30am - 790 Patterson Dr.  
Heritage - 9:30am - 4010 N. Custer Rd.

**All are welcome!**

Invite your friends and family to join us!

**Please RSVP to your church office.**  
**You can RSVP for all Tuesdays, or weekly by Monday at noon.**



## *A Note from John...*

A new year, a new decade, and a new beginning are all facing us now as we transition from 2019 to 2020. Will we see things more clearly now as we move to the year 2020? Time will tell. For Melodye and I, a lot of new things have happened already in the middle of 2019. A new city, a new church, and a new place to call home, are all part of this new episode in our life. Fortunately, I'm no longer driving the wrong way down a one-way street (it only happened twice), and I no longer drive to Monroe by way of Ohio (as I did during the first week). Gradually, city, church and house are becoming "home".

Gradually I'm starting to remember names, and little by little acquaintances are developing into friendships. Consistent with that theme is a desire to know more about others as well as others wanting to know more about me. For those of you that don't know, Melodye and I have been married for one year and 3 months. We've known each other since 2012 when we connected on a "dating site". After she moved from Jackson, MI to Ewart, MI, I followed her there to take our relationship to the next level, as they say. Facts and figures can be helpful, but they rarely give you a complete picture of what a person is like. Seeing each other almost everyday in Ewart gave us a chance to really get to know each other.

Being a pastor's spouse is certainly a new experience for me. Melodye is the first female pastor I had ever met. I didn't know if I had to learn to play the piano, teach Sunday School, or learn to bake pies to be considered a candidate for marriage to her. The church denomination that I'm most familiar with has only recently and somewhat reluctantly accepted women to act as pastors. As some of you know, I was born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. My parents immigrated in 1954 when I was 7 years old. After living with our American sponsor for 3 months in Hamilton, MI, we settled in Holland, MI.

I attended the Christian School System in Holland, MI and graduated from Holland Christian High School. I graduated from Calvin College (now Calvin University) and spent most of my adult life in Grand Rapids. After a 6 year stint working for K-Mart Corporation, I went into the photo retail business and managed several different stores. When I moved to Ewart I went into semi-retirement and worked part time during the night shift at the local hotel. It was in Ewart where I became a member of the UMC for the first time.

I was baptized as an infant in the "Gereformeerde Kerk", a Protestant denomination in the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition. In the U.S. our family became members of the Christian Reformed Church, a very similar denomination. Later in life I attended a Baptist Church in Grand Rapids for more than 25 years because my ex-wife was Baptist; and, when we married, she already had two young children. Because of my infant baptism and my public profession of faith in the CRC, I did not see a need to be re-baptized, so I was never officially a member of Berean Baptist. Still, I was treated like a member and I continue to value those friendships with my Baptist brothers and sisters. Over the past 7 or 8 years I have also learned a lot about the Methodist Church.

It is here now, at St Paul's UMC, in Monroe, where I hope to find my current church home and serve in a way that my gifts and my Lord allow me to.

- John VanOudheusden



You Should  
**Know This!**

As the new year begins, St. Paul's United Methodist Women's group is at a crossroads. We find ourselves without a president or a vice president. We are looking for women to step in and lead, so we can continue to provide the activities and mission giving we have offered in the past.

Under the direction of Cindy, Mary Kay and Kathy, with the assistance of many women and men of St. Paul's, we have held three successful salad luncheons yearly, which provide fellowship opportunities for the community and earn moneys for our mission giving. Biennially, Alisha has led three silent auctions with funds going to Water for Life and the Youth mission trip. Recently the eighth annual Advent Tea was held and was well attended. Plans are underway for the ninth annual St. Paul's Advent Tea next year. The card ministry is going strong. We have received positive responses from our cards' recipients. St. Paul's has two active circles. Eve Circle meets monthly for study and fellowship. The Mary Martha Circle gathers twice monthly to share their love of crafts and serve the Lord through the prayer quilt ministry.

But St. Paul's United Methodist Women's group needs leaders to help plan and preside over our three meetings. We also need other members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. How do you see yourself fitting in and helping out?

Sue and Kathy



### **2020 UMW Reading Program:**

The 2020 reading list is on the UMW website: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram).

**Education for Mission:** *The Pilgrim Journey: A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World*

**Leadership Development:** *Teaching Outside the Box: Five Approaches to Opening the Bible with Youth*

**Nurturing Community:** *#RUHooked: Teens & Social Media: For Teens and the People Who Care About Them.*

**Social Action:** *A Cage without Bars*

**Spiritual Growth:** *40 Days with Wesley*

### **From Pastor Melodye:**

We will be having a **congregational planning meeting** during February. It will be at the IHM River House here in Monroe from 9-4 one of these Saturdays: February 8th, 15th or 29th. Please check your calendars to see which date would work best for you! The date will be finalized at our Church Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 21st.

# January Worship Leaders

<b>Date:</b>	<b>January 5 9:00am</b>	<b>January 12 9:00am</b>	<b>January 19 9:00am</b>	<b>January 26 9:00am</b>
Ushers:	John Salisbury, Obie Green, Mike McCain, Jack Rayce, Jim Jacobs, Tom Myers	John Salisbury, Obie Green, Mike McCain, Jack Rayce, Jim Jacobs, Tom Myers	John Salisbury, Obie Green, Mike McCain, Jack Rayce, Jim Jacobs, Tom Myers	John Salisbury, Obie Green, Mike McCain, Jack Rayce, Jim Jacobs, Tom Myers
Acolytes:	Joseph Dinwoody	Joseph Dinwoody	Jimmy Maylen	Sophia Nolff and Caitlin Nolff
Liturgist:	Brad Lewis	Carol Hartong	Mary Kay Hamilton	UMYF
Communion Stewards:	Cathy Tyner, Denise Monday			
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
Ushers:	Cheryl Brophy, Julie Linn, Yvonne Gnaedinger	Karen Zeestraten, Pascale Clevinger, Gordon Doster	Tom Paterson, Bob Paterson, Jerry Spence, Will Paterson	<b>PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO VOLUNTEER</b>
Acolytes:	Emmett Mehki and Josie Mehki	Jack Benavente and Kate Benavente	Harrison Tyner and Marilyn Tyner	Alex Roa-Garcia
Liturgist:	Michelle Davis	Ken Jaynes	John VanOudheusden	UMYF
Communion Stewards:	Susan Myers, Jannet Low			

Christ's Kids is displaying a "Mitten Tree" in Fellowship Hall. We ask you to place **donations of mittens, hats, scarfs or gloves** on the tree for distribution to local schools and the Salvation Army. We will collect donations **thru January 5th**.

### Christ's Kids January Schedule:

January 1st - Happy New Year! Christ's Kids will not meet  
January 8th - Christ Kids will resume as normal - 6:00pm - 7:30pm

### UMYF January Schedule:

Regular meetings (Sunday's at 6:00pm)  
January 26th - **YOUTH SUNDAY** - No regular meeting



**\*\*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.

## January Birthday List

- 1 - Jason Nolff
- 2 - Charles VanBelle
- 3 - Dorothy Hile
- 6 - Gary Doubler, Nancy Freud, Joan Sara
- 8 - Cinda Doubler, Holly Thompson
- 9 - Bill Burkett
- 10 - Obie Green, Megan Pirlot
- 12 - Wyatt Lambert
- 15 - Sharon Balk
- 19 - Judy Bodenmiller, Ellie Himebauch,  
Roger Spalding
- 20 - Julie Balk, William Huntley, Olivia Low
- 21 - Isabella Hunter
- 25 - George Stoner
- 26 - Kathy Heatherly
- 30 - Duane Bair
- 31 - Emily Short



## 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 - Carrie Ivey, Rhonda Schmidt
- 24 - Adel Ivey, Velma Mumby
- 26 - Pascale Clevinger, Barbara Pierce
- 27 - John Cichy
- 28 - Colleen Baker

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

## **Scholarship Information:**

Scholarship applications for college and vocational students are now available from the church office or online on the church website. Scholarship grants will once again be considered for members, constituents, children of members and other associates of the church working toward an undergraduate degree.

**Applications and a copy of the student's latest grade report must be submitted no later than Sunday, January 19th.** Applicants should have completed at least one semester of education or training and be in good academic standing.



**Direct Debit Available!** We have Direct Deposit banking and would be happy to set up your givings so that you don't need to worry about writing one more check each month and St. Paul's is better able to pay the bills. It's easy to do and on the 5th and/or the 20th of each month, your account will be debited for the amount you choose. It's especially worry-free for you if you are one of our snowbirds, or do a lot of traveling. There is a form on our website, or you can stop in the office and pick one up.



## *Stewardship: Applying Biblical Principals January 2020*

“ . . . ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you” (Luke 11:9).

God has a wonderful “system” by which we as his children are to get our needs met. It’s a very simple “system,” but somehow, we fail to utilize it as we should. Here’s the plan: God says we are to ask him. Is that simple or what? We are to call unto the Lord, to cry out our needs before him, to bring our petitions before his throne. But somehow, we must think God’s plan is too complex, for with most of us, asking God is the last thing we do when we have needs.

Oh, we’ll tell our friends. We’ll discuss our needs with any and all who have the patience and courtesy to listen. We’ll frequently complain about our problems, even to the extent of sometimes holding God responsible for his seeming failure to provide for us. But ask God? Usually we’ll do that only as a last resort.

The result is a sad state of affairs among Christians. “You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures” (James 4:2-3). So our needs go unmet because either we do not ask or we ask with wrong motives.

J. Irvin Overholtzer was a pastor who was greatly used by God as the founder of Child Evangelism Fellowship. His philosophy of providing for the financial needs of this world-wide organization was this: “Ask God . . . and tell his people.” Yes, we need to share our needs with others. We ought to make others aware of opportunities for them to get involved in being used of God to meet those needs. But the *first* step in the entire process is this: “Ask God.”

And when we do, we can claim his promise stated so clearly in Jeremiah 33:3 — “Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

Say, do you have needs in your life today? Why not “ask God”? Why not come boldly to his throne? Why not take God at his Word and “call” unto him? That’s God’s plan for his children: “. . . ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you” (Luke 11:9).

Or as Eliza Hickock wrote a century ago, “I know not by what methods rare, but this I know: God answers prayer!”

## Worship Committee Update

Saint Paul's UMC Worship Committee met on December 5th and discussed worship and ideas to make worship a more engaging and meaningful experience for those who attend service here. If you have thoughts or comments about worship we would love to hear your ideas. We continue to need help with ushering and greeting. Please take some time and think about how you can help. Neither of these are demanding or complicated areas in which you can serve. If you are interested in helping out on a Sunday morning don't be afraid to volunteer, just call the office or leave a note in the worship committees mail box. Remember you can always just sign-up as a greeter on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the atrium. Be that smiling face and warm greeting for people attending worship at St Paul's.

As you may know our each of our Confirmation classes make quilts to represent their class. The Worship and Christian Education Committees have developed plans to hang and display the quilts in the main hallway. This should take place in the near future.

Advent and Christmas services were well attended and meaningful for those who attended. The candle lighting services on Christmas Eve were well received and congregants seemed to enjoy the more traditional way of lighting candles to represent the passing of Christ's light.

Plans are underway for a Wednesday evening Lenten study which will be led by Pastor Melodye.



**Congregational Survey:** Early in January a survey to the congregation concerning worship style will be sent to homes of members and friends. All members of confirmation age and above can fill out the survey. Surveys will be anonymous so you can feel safe in sharing your thoughts and ideas. This survey will help us determine the direction we need to move concerning worship at St Paul's. Be sure to complete the survey and return it to the office. Your thoughts and ideas will help guide us as we make decisions when designing worship. We are excited about the future of our wonderful church and we want it to be a comfortable and meaningful place to worship.

## 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 about \$23, 550.00.** 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

# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Office Closed</div>	2	3	4 8am - Fellowship Hall in use
5 9:00am-Worship with Communion - Rev. Brad Lewis Preaching 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Worship with Communion - Rev. Brad Lewis Preaching 6:00pm - UMYF	6	7 6:00pm - GodWorks! 7:00pm - Faith at the Movies (Little Women) at Phoenix Theater	8 9:30am-Mary/Martha Circle Crafters 12:00pm - Kiwanis 6:00pm - Christ Kids 6:15pm - Praise Ringers 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	9 10:00am - Sounds of Joy 6:00pm - Boy Scout Meeting, Troop 550 7:00pm - Blessed Through Prayer	10	11
12 9:00am - Worship 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Worship 6:00pm - UMYF	13 7:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting	14 12:00pm - Kiwanis Board Meeting 6:00pm - GodWorks! 6:00pm - Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00pm - Christian Education Meeting 7:00pm - Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm - Faith at the Movies (Star Wars) at Phoenix Theater	15 12:00pm - Kiwanis 6:00pm - Christ Kids 6:15pm - Praise Ringers 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	16 10:00am - Sounds of Joy 6:00pm - Boy Scout Meeting, Troop 550 7:00pm - Blessed Through Prayer	17	18
19 9:00am - Worship 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Worship 6:00pm - UMYF	20	21 6:00pm - GodWorks! 7:00pm - Ad Council Meeting 7:00pm - Faith at the Movies (Spies in Disguise) at Phoenix Theater	22 9:30am-Mary/Martha Circle Crafters 12:00pm - Kiwanis 6:00pm - Christ Kids 6:15pm - Praise Ringers 7:30pm - Chancel	23 10:00am - Sounds of Joy 6:00pm - Boy Scout Meeting, Troop 550 7:00pm - Blessed Through Prayer	24	25
26 <b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b> 9:00am - Worship 10:00am - Sunday School 11:00am - Worship	27 7:00pm - Trustee Committee Meeting	28 6:00pm - GodWorks! 7:00pm - Faith at the Movies (Just Mercy) at Phoenix Theater	29 12:00pm - Kiwanis 6:00pm - Christ Kids 6:15pm - Praise Ringers 7:30pm - Chancel	30 10:00am - Sounds of Joy 6:00pm - Boy Scout Meeting, Troop 550 7:00pm - Blessed Through Prayer	31	



### St. Paul's Church Family Updates:

Check here for prayer concerns, updated addresses, 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\*, Don Holzinger, Cathy Brodie, The Family of Kyle Collins, Dale Rathbun, Mary Lou and Blaine Zimmerman.

\*Sharon Balk will be at Glacier Hills Rehab for the next 3 weeks. She welcomes visitors! If you would like to send her a card or note, send it to: 1200 Earhart Rd., Room 1309, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

#### St. Paul's Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Melodye 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 & Susan Myers  
Treasurer: Jeanette Fedosky  
Financial Secretary: Linda Spenoso  
Custodial Staff: Kelly Leask, Dale Rathbun, Brian Metzger,  
Theresa Rathbun, Ron Ivey, John Fedosky  
Nursery Staff: Jacob Gladieux, Audrey Cooley



*The United Methodist Church*

*Open Hearts*

*Open Minds*

*Open Doors*

For more information about the United Methodist Church, please visit [umc.org](http://umc.org).

Our Michigan UMC Conference information can be found at [michiganumc.org](http://michiganumc.org).

St. Paul's is part of the Heritage District, and that website is [heritage.michiganumc.org](http://heritage.michiganumc.org).