



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

# The Slate 2.0

Volume 2, Issue 6

September 2020

## St. Paul's UMC

201 S. Monroe Street  
Monroe, Michigan 48161  
734.242.3000

stpaulsmonroe@  
sbcglobal.net

stpaulsumcmonroe.org

Current Office Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday  
9:00am - 12:00pm

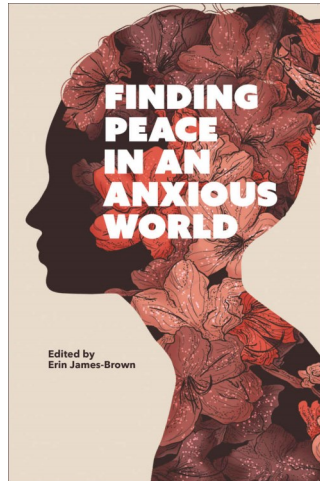


For more information  
about the United  
Methodist Church,  
please visit [umc.org](http://umc.org).

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).

## From Pastor Melodye...



These are anxious times for so many of us. COVID-19 has changed so much of what we do on a fundamental level. We limit how we act and where we go. Masks can now be a political statement – or a fashion accessory. We no longer shake hands or give hugs. Some of us even have a favorite brand of hand sanitizer. (Mine is “Aromatherapy Stress Relief” from Bath and Body Works!)

Life here at St. Paul's is vastly different than when I first was appointed here as your pastor a little more than a year ago. Our worship space is marked off for social distancing. Our Choirs are not singing – and probably will not “make a joyful noise” until sometime in 2021. Our Nursery is closed, and our Christ's Kids Group and UMYF Youth Group are waiting to reconvene until life is healthier and safer.

However, the need to be connected to each other is stronger than it ever has been. Our worship is shared on Facebook Live and YouTube. We still share brown bag meals through Gods Works on Tuesday nights. And we are still offering some limited ways for Adult education.

Our Worship theme from August 30 through the month of September is “Finding Peace in an Anxious World.” The book of Proverbs and “The Serenity Prayer” will be our guides to help us find our way through anxiety, worry, and fear and move towards God's peace that surpasses all understanding. This theme is based on the 2020 United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Study by the staff at the Urban Village Church in Chicago.

Using “The Serenity Prayer” as a scaffold, “Finding Peace in an Anxious World” explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ.

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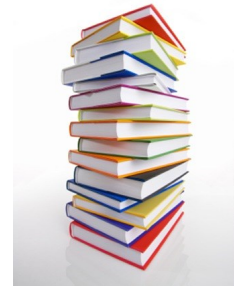
Beyond worship, we will have three opportunities to use this text as a five week group study. To give everyone time to get their book and read through it, our first meeting will be September 13:

- \*On Sundays at 10:30 AM in our Fellowship Hall after Worship, with social distancing and wearing face masks;
- \*Outdoors on a weekday at the IHM Gazebo (Time and day to be announced)
- \*On Wednesday evenings at 7 PM via Zoom.

The Study Book can be purchase through the Church office for \$10 each, or on amazon Kindle for \$5.95.

Please join us as we make connections among each other and with God through this study.

Blessings, Pastor Melodye



## Worship Committee Update

Saint Paul's UMC Worship Committee met on August 11th to discuss ideas to make worship a more engaging and meaningful experience. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas about worship and how we can make it more appealing to you. Comments can be made to the church office by telephone, letter, or voice mail. Or please feel free to contact our Worship Committee Chair, John Tyner.

**We reviewed the Worship Survey from last Fall and have decided to continue with one worship service at 9:30 AM.** This will be reconsidered after the COVID-19 pandemic has been controlled. Our plan is to return to using liturgists and acolytes on Sunday, September 13.

We are happy to report that the church wi-fi has been upgraded and should be available throughout the church. This will greatly enhance our live streaming of services. Many thanks to our office staff Cathy Butson and Jeanette Fedosky for handling this for the church.

**Organ Update:** Work continues on our wonderful pipe organ and should be completed sometime in early September.

While working on the instrument it was discovered that some additional work needs to be done to ensure our organ performs without problems for the foreseeable future. This additional work will add \$1,465.00 bringing the total cost up to \$34,465.00. Through your generous donations we have raised \$33,300.00 so we are almost there. Please consider continuing your offerings for the organ for a little longer. The people of St Paul's have always been generous and risen to the call for funds. Thank you for supporting this project.

**THERE IS STILL A NEED FOR USHERS AND GREETERS** During this time of pandemic it is important to be a welcoming church so please take some time and think about how you can help. Neither of these are demanding or complicated "jobs". Please consider helping out on a Sunday morning. Don't be afraid to volunteer if you haven't done it before; everyone is being re-trained right now. Just call the office or sign up on the bulletin board in the atrium. Be that smiling face and warm greeting for people attending worship at St Paul's.

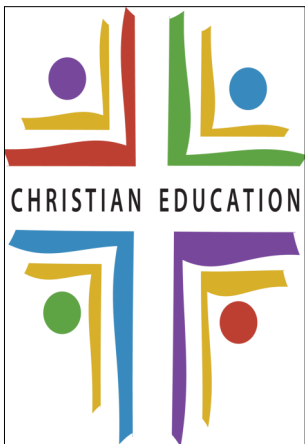
We look forward to seeing and sharing worship with you at St. Paul's either face to face or on live streaming.

## Holy Communion

Traditionally, we offer Holy Communion in worship on the first Sunday of the month. We are continuing to do this during our in person worship service at 9:30 AM.

For those not yet comfortable worshipping in person, Communion will be offered in a different manner. Pastor Melodye will be in the church parking lot at 5:30 PM on the same Sunday that Communion is given during worship. After you park, stay in the car, roll down your window, and Pastor Melodye will pray with you and offer you the consecrated bread and the juice in a safe manner. This will begin Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like Holy Communion brought to your home, please contact the church office and schedule an appointment. Pastor Melodye will come to visit you with Communion.



## Christian Education Update

### Doing things differently in 2020

Well this school year is not beginning as usual. No Rally Day and none of the excitement going back to the classroom can bring; seeing your friends and teachers. But we are faithful people. In order to love God with all our heart and all our mind, we need to continue making disciples who go into the world and share the love of Jesus. We still need our relationships with our church family. Will we be doing things differently...yes. Creating new ways to learn and teach...yep. Keeping our church family safe and healthy...absolutely. We could not have predicted the Earthquake on August 21 in Monroe County, but we can plan and keep moving forward doing, creating and keeping safety accommodations (masks, social distancing, frequent hand washing, no food or drink) in mind during the COVID pandemic.

Our Christian Education work area closely follows Monroe Public Schools (MPS) protocols and schedules. When MPS closes for inclement weather, we follow their lead to cancel our activities. We've developed a scale based on the State of Michigan "Safe Start Plan" Phases and back to school plans MPS is using to return to in-person gathering.

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Christian Education Activities	State of MI Phase	Status
Phase A	Phase 1-3	No Activities
Phase B	Phase 4	Small Gatherings, no children or youth activities unless outdoors, all with accommodations
Phase C	Phase 5	Resume most in-person activities with accommodations
Post COVID	Phase 6	All activities resume

### Phase B Activity Information for Fall 2020

**Nursery:** Services are not provided at this time.

**Children & Youth:** No children or youth Sunday School will be held, until Phase C. Sunday School for children is currently virtual online at the “Children’s Ministries Group” of the St. Paul’s Facebook Page. Confirmation for 7th-9th grades will be held in person January thru May 2021. Christ’s Kids and UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) will have a few scheduled outdoor events and Zoom calls to reunite. No children or youth choirs will meet.

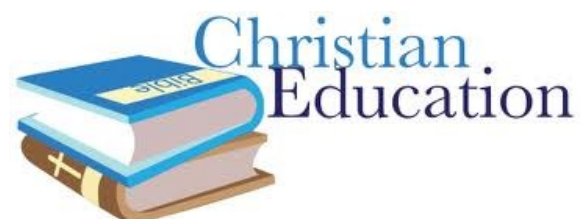
**Adults:** Sunday school and small gatherings with social distancing and mask wearing will be permitted. New small groups are encouraged, so see Alisha Cooley or Pastor Melodye for ideas and resources. Pastor Melodye will begin a Book Study beginning September 13 with three offerings: 10:30am on Sundays after worship, on Wednesdays via Zoom, and another gathering outdoors at IHM Gazebo. Books are available in hard copy and on Kindle. Contact office for more information.

**Events:** Most events such as book sales, UMW meetings and salad luncheons will not be held this Fall. Watch Facebook and the newsletter for other favorite activities we will be doing in different ways.

**Drive thru Back to School Blessings** will be held on Sunday, September 6 in the church parking lot from 4-5PM. Come students and teachers! Last names beginning with the letters A-M are asked to drive in from 4-4:30pm; letters N-Z 4:30-5pm. Enter the parking lot from Monroe Street, take a hard right to form a line going around the parking lot, and ultimately end with the blessing for each family taking place in front of the Fellowship Hall doors.

We need to take care of each other in these uncertain times. St. Paul’s is working hard to continue to give its members an opportunity to keep in touch with each other and share Jesus’ love with others.

Stay safe and healthy, and love God!  
Alisha Cooley  
Christian Education Director





## An update on UMW activities within the guidelines of the COVID-19 protocols:

- \*Sadly, there will be no salad luncheons this fall. It's our hope that they'll return in 2021.
- \*Research is happening in hopes of holding our biennial silent auction this October/November. Please continue to work on the projects you'd like to donate to this fundraiser.
- \*Our 9th annual **Advent Tea will be held virtually on Sunday, November 29, 2020.** Perhaps you'd like to host a table of family and friends that you'd be comfortable inviting into your home. The program will be interactive with singing, responsive readings, and fellowship - everything you've come to expect, except the fabulous buffet you help us provide.
- \*Pastor Melodye has said that our September, March, and June meetings can be socially distanced in Fellowship Hall without snacks or held via Zoom. What program ideas can you share with the committee so they can plan interesting, timely topics? Email or call one of us with your thoughts.
- \*If you're part of the card ministry, please continue to correspond with your saints. If you'd like to join the card ministry, contact Cathy or Susan at the church office.

We'll get more information to you as we develop this unique year of programming.

PS: The ladies of the Prayer Quilt Ministry are working in their homes following the guidelines given us by the church leadership. Please continue to turn in the names of those you'd like to see receive a quilt to the ladies in the office. We look forward to a time when it is safe to hang the quilts for you to tie the knots and say the prayers.

Kathy Heatherly 734-457-0622 [kathyheatherly@charter.net](mailto:kathyheatherly@charter.net)  
 Sue Fleming 734-828-6353 [suefleming7@yahoo.com](mailto:suefleming7@yahoo.com)

### St. Paul's United Methodist Church 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 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

### September Birthday List

- 1 - Connie Lass, Kaitlyn Leask-Johnson
- 3 - Julie Everly-Banfield, Christina Florence
- 4 - Kim Jacques
- 7 - Vicky Johnson, Chris Kull, Phil Skarbek
- 8 - John Tyner
- 9 - Jeff Clute, Jennifer Lee, Tom Short
- 12 - Jane Drumm, Ken Jaynes, Isaac Merman
- 13 - Harrison Rider, Josh Thompson
- 14 - Alyssa LaRoy, Dale Rathbun Sr., Laurie Revere
- 15 - Cathy Tyner
- 16 - Jenni Johnson
- 17 - Al Brooks
- 21 - Marlyn Gensler
- 22 - Paul Revere
- 25 - Jeffrey Linn, Matt Tyner
- 26 - Anya Jacobs, Jerry Johnson, Karen Salisbury
- 27 - Linda Larkins, Emily Myers

### October Birthday List

- 1 - Vern Barton
- 4 - Todd Favreau
- 6 - Mary Anne Bair
- 9 - John Brown
- 11 - Joseph Dinwoody, Kaleb Jacobs
- 12 - Kathryn Short, Sophia Short
- 14 - David Regelin
- 15 - Elaine Arting, Tom Pabin
- 16 - Jeanette Fedosky, Sophia Vergowven,  
Kelly Zawodni
- 18 - Laurie Favreau, Mark Gladieux, Denise Monday
- 19 - Hope Brophy
- 21 - Linda Regelin
- 22 - Ella Jones, Barbara Smith
- 24 - Daniel Snow
- 25 - Patty Siekierda, Sue Stanifer

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



Welcome back to **St. Paul's Praise Ringers!**

We will resume rehearsals beginning on September 9, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. Due to COVID-19, we will wear masks and rehearse in the gym where we can maintain our distance. I am really excited to see you all again. If you are not planning to return, please contact the church office to let them know. We are also looking for new members, so if you are interested, please let me know!  
- Catherine Brodie

### Altar Flowers

Don't forget to sign up for altar flower arrangements. They are only \$15 and can be taken home after Worship. If you are not attending in person, they can be left at church for the staff to enjoy during the week.

Recently we have only had one arrangement per week, but we can have two, so be sure to sign up on the bulletin board across from fellowship hall, or call the church office and we can sign you up!



# St. Paul's Church Family:

## Prayer concerns and other information

### 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...

Brad Lewis, John Jacobs, Sharon Balk, Dale Rathbun, Mary Anne and Duane Bair, all those who are choosing to self-quarantine, those who are hurting and lonely, and for teachers and students who are going or have gone back to school, either in person, virtually, or a combination of both.



### *In Sympathy*

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family of **Cinda Doubler, who passed away on June 30, 2020**. Please keep her husband, Gary, and children Deanna and Stephen in your prayers and they continue to grieve their great loss.

We also offer sympathy to the family of **Marc Herrera, who passed away suddenly on July 21, 2020**. Marc was the father of Cayman Herrera, and the husband of the late Kari (Paterson) Herrera. Please pray for Cayman, who is only 13 years old and has tragically lost his mother and father as well as his grandmother (Susan Paterson) and great-grandmother (Mary Beth Paterson).



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).

# September 2020

**Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat**

		1 6:00pm - God-Works! Meal 7:00pm-Worship Committee Meeting	2	3	4	5
6 9:30am-Worship w/ Communion 4:00pm-Back to School Drive up Blessing 5:30pm-Drive up Communion	7	8 6:00pm - God-Works! Meal	9 6:15pm-Praise Ringers (in gym)	10	11	12
13 9:30am-Worship 10:30 am - Book Study in Fellowship Hall	14	15 6:00pm - God-Works! Meal 6:00pm-Outreach Committee Meeting	16 6:15pm-Praise Ringers (in gym) 7:00pm-Book Study via Zoom	17	18	19
20 9:30am-Worship 10:30 am - Book Study in Fellowship Hall	21	22 6:00pm - God-Works! Meal	23 6:15pm-Praise Ringers (in gym) 7:00pm-Book Study via Zoom	24	25	26
27 9:30am-Worship 10:30 am - Book Study in Fellowship Hall	28	29 6:00pm - God-Works! Meal	30 6:15pm-Praise Ringers (in gym) 7:00pm-Book Study via Zoom			