



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2023

Worship God.

Follow Jesus.

Serve Others.

From the computer of Pastor Sheila:

It is good to be back with you and your congregation again! Keith and I have enjoyed catching up with many of you...and thank you for the reminder of your names.

In January our focus has been on responding to God's call on our life, like the disciples did. The first four disciples responded and followed Jesus without knowing where he was going, what they would do or where they would sleep. They were faithfully obedient.

Jesus wants us to be faithful and obedient to Him also. He wants us to communicate with him, we get to talk with him by prayer anytime, anyplace and we never get a busy signal. In James 5:13-16 we find these words, *"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."*

Sometimes we may wonder where to begin? So, I have run across a suggestion for prayer that might work for us: The Five Finger Prayer, it is a great way to teach someone to pray, or a good model for anyone to use to pray:

- Your thumb is nearest you so begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you.
- The next finger (the pointer finger), you prayer for those who teach, instruct and offer comfort. This may be teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support

and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.

- The tallest finger reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide the public in many different ways. They need God's guidance.
- The ring finger, we could pray for marriages and families. Because the ring finger is our weakest finger, we can pray for the weak. You cannot pray too much for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain.
- The little finger is the smallest of the five fingers. It should remind us of our place in relation to God and others. God's Word teaches us that, "the least shall be the greatest among you" (Matthew 23:11). Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other found groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to prayer for yourself more effectively.

Are we praying???

May God continue to hear our prayers as we continue to be a praying church and remember this prayer model. May we also remember all in our congregation and community who need prayer.

That is all for now. See you in church.

Pastor Sheila

Schedule of February messages:

- February 5: Matthew 5:13-20 Message: Salt and Light
- February 12: Matthew 5:33-27 Message: Our Tongue, Our Words
- February 19: Matthew 17:1-9 Message: The Transfiguration
- February 26: Matthew 4:1-11 Message: Falling in Love Again (First Sunday of Lent)

ASH WEDNESDAY: February 22 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten Season.....We will be teaming up with Cassopolis Presbyterian Church and the invite has also been extended to the Decatur Presbyterian Church also. We are having an Ash Wednesday Service at 2:00 pm. Mark your calendars....after the Pastor of the Presbyterian Church returns from vacation, we will be firming up plans and decide where the service will be held.... More to follow...

PARISH SYMPATHY:

- We would like to extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to the family of Rudy DelaRosa, father and father-in-law to Adam and Teresa Dahlgren. The service will be held Friday, February 3 at 11:00 am for visitation, 12N for the Celebration of Life, followed by a luncheon at our church.
- We also want to extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to the family of Pat Williams who passed away last week. Her service will be held Saturday, February 11 at the funeral home.

ONLINE WORSHIP DURING THE WINTER

For those who enjoy worshiping with the CUMC online, we want you to know that the service during the months of January, February and March will include only the sermon recorded during the in person service on Sunday mornings.

The production of an entire experience of worship (hymns, prayers, children's time, scripture, etc.) will not be recorded by our interim pastor, Sheila Baker. When Rev. Panse returns in April, the full worship service will again be produced for our online viewers.

Thanks for your understanding and patience. Blessings.

Thank You Notes Received

Cassopolis United Methodist Church,

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services would like to personally thank you for making our work possible. Your kindness this past year supported our work. Your generosity allowed us to look beyond the challenges of providing services on limited funding and enabled our full effort and heart into providing exemplary services for the survivors and their families we serve together.

Dear Loved ones,

Mañalo Nui (Thank you very much) for your thoughts and prayers for Jim's last party. It means so much to me & our family to be the recipients of your love and concerns. God bless you always and in all ways!!!

Love,

Chris Denson & Family

Hello,

I'm Colleen Welsch from Southwestern Michigan College. I run the Roadrunner Kitchen food pantry. I'm not sure how you found out about us, but I was shocked to hear from the business office that we received a large check from you!! I just wanted to give you the biggest thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous Roadrunner Kitchen donation! Your gift to our students through RRK is so much appreciated.

Usage by students has increased this past year too- in 2022 we gave 45% more items to 23% more students than compared to 2021. So again, thank you so very much for your generosity.

Best wishes,

Colleen

Voluntary Choir

We are pleased to announce our choir of volunteers will meet to practice their first song together on Sunday February 5th following worship. They have chosen "The Old Rugged Cross" as their debut selection to share with our church family. We look forward to being blessed by the vocal talent of these men and women.



Please remember that we are once again collecting new mittens, gloves, hats and socks for boys and girls in our local schools this winter. All donated items can be put on the mitten tree or in the designated box in Wood Hall and will be distributed by Barb Mesko as needed. Thank you so much for your continued support!



February



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>Greg Connolly</i> <i>Brenda Willey</i>	2 Groundhog Day JoLynn Watts	3 <i>Jane Moraw</i>	4 Nova Rae Keeter
5 Worship 10 AM	6	7 <i>Larry Garver</i>	8 <i>Liana Heath</i>	9	10 <i>Mary Nelson</i>	11
12 Worship 10 AM	13	14 	15	16	17 Kelley Nickel	18
19 Worship 10 AM	20 Presidents Day	21 Sewing Sewers 10 AM	22 <i>Jim Beebe</i>	23	24	25 St Paul Lutheran Food Pantry 11:30 - 1 <i>Pat Hayden</i>
26 Worship 10 AM	27 <i>Aleah Dahlgren</i>	28				

If your special date does not appear on this calendar, please let the office now.