



Newsletter

JULY 2023

Worship God.

Follow Jesus.

Serve Others.

Jesus said, “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”
Luke 10:36-37

Dear Friends in Christ,

The verse quoted above will be recognized as the conclusion to the story of the Good Samaritan as told by Jesus to the inquiring expert in the law. We know the story well and may have repeated it ourselves to teach others about showing mercy. But how well and how often do we show mercy?

This Good Samaritan parable was told in response to the question “Who is my neighbor?”, for Jesus had just said “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and, love your neighbor as yourself.”

The opportunity to be neighborly and show mercy presents itself frequently. A friend or acquaintance may have a vehicle in for service. We may offer a ride, or use of our car. Someone else may be at home with an illness or recovering from surgery. We may offer to bring a meal, clean their house, or read to them a book. Another may have been victim of a severe storm. We may offer shelter, or assistance in rebuilding or repairing.

On other occasions, we may learn of a person or a family or a community in great need after some tragedy, attack, storm or accident. The location of this “neighbor” may be too far to be of personal help. So, then our response is to offer assistance to those present with the neighbor by sending gifts of food, water, materials or money to compliment what is being done by others.

Dear neighbor, be alert and responsive to the needs of others. Be creative and be generous. You will be pleased to discover that you are blessed as you become a blessing to others. And you will find joy in being obedient to Jesus’ command, “Go and do likewise.”

Blessings,
Wade Panse, Pastor

SERMON SCHEDULE FOR JULY

July 2 5th Sunday “Saul: A Man without Equal” Saul 1 Sam 10:9-11
 after Pentecost

July 9 6th Sunday “David: From that Day On” David 1 Sam 16:13
 after Pentecost

The Sermon Series for Summer: The Roman Road to Faith and Holy Living

July 16 7th Sunday “According to the Spirit” Righteousness Rom 8:1-11
 after Pentecost

July 23 8th Sunday “The Witness of the Spirit” Children of God Rom 8:1-25
 after Pentecost

July 30 9th Sunday “The Intercession of Prayer Rom 8:26-39
 after Pentecost the Spirit”

BIBLE STUDY IN JULY AND AUGUST

PSALMS FOR SUMMER

You are invited to participate in our summer Bible Study series from the book of Psalms. Each Wednesday evening in July and August our Pastor will be teaching from selected Psalms. The class begins at 6:30 and concludes by 7:30 p.m. Meeting in the Fellowship Hall each week we will enjoy lively conversation, spiritual insight into the word of God, and a blessing from the fellowship and teaching. Please plan to join with us each week, or as often as you can. Please bring your Bible, a smile and a friend if you wish. Light refreshments will be served.

Here is the schedule for our Psalms for Summer:

July 5 - Psalm 13

July 12 - Psalm 45:10-17 or 72

July 19 - Psalm 119:105-112 or 25

July 26 - Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

August 2 - Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

August 9 - Psalm 17:1-7, 15

August 16 - Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

August 23 - Psalm 133

August 30 - Psalm 124

YOU ARE IMPORTANT

You are an important part of our 185th Anniversary Celebration. Each Sunday during the months of July and August we will be remembering our church history, thanking God for years of blessing, and rejoicing in the faithfulness of God during 185 years of ministry and mission. Our weekly worship will include special music, the presence of friends and guests, and the personal witness of congregational members.

That's right! The personal witness of congregational members is exactly where you have a part to play in our anniversary celebration. It is your personal experience of God's blessings through this local congregation that you may share in written testimony, recorded video presentation, or personal presence and verbal sharing during our worship service. It is our hope that one or more personal testimonies may be presented each Sunday during July and August.

With your permission each personal witness will be saved in writing or in video to become a part of our recorded history of this important anniversary. Again, you may prepare in advance or speak impromptu during the service of worship. If you know of a particular Sunday you would like to speak, please let us know so we can plan on your participation.

All that we do in special music or personal testimony, we do to the glory of God. Grateful always for the goodness of God we have experienced through years of Christian service together at the Cassopolis United Methodist Church.

You are important to God and to us! Let us know how God has blessed you in and through this local church. Thank you.

Thank You!

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of food for the pantry, as well as letting us stage the packing of bags for 42 hungry children to receive on the weekends. Contributions to Helping Hands are used to support outreach to our community in Cass County. Our organization provided over 6,048 services to individuals in 2022 because of donors like yourself. We are grateful for your donation that supports services to people in need.

Thank You,

Leigh Goyings

Helping Hands Secretary

INSPIRATION FROM THE WORD

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

Honoring our Graduates



Congratulations to Luis and Jonathan!



The CUMC 185th Anniversary Dinner will be on August 13, immediately following the 10 am worship service. Kindly RSVP to Zack May-Fox, JoLynn Watts or Char Hiemstra by August 6th, 269-445-3107 or 269-268-7066.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REVIEW AND REPORT

The Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church met in Traverse City June 2-4. The Conference had challenging business to complete, but also received assurance and hope through messages and reports presented throughout the week. This year's gathering came at a transitional point in the life of the Michigan Annual Conference, as 1,536 clergy and lay members along with staff and guests, met to worshiped, take care of business, and celebrate mission and ministry and our calling as children of God redeemed by Jesus Christ. It was the first annual meeting since 2019 where almost all COVID-19 precautions were removed.

The Michigan Conference has again been recognized by the denomination's General Board of Global Ministries as being #1 in mission giving. The Michigan Conference gave \$2.1 million dollars to the Advance (special giving avenues), more than any other annual conference in America. And our Conference supports 28 missionaries around the world, again leading the United Methodist Church.

The Readers to Leaders fundraising campaign (which Cassopolis UMC has generously supported) announced that the campaign has been extended for another year, concluding at next year's Annual Conference. The campaign supports students participating in the Michigan Conference's Children's Defense Fund Freedom School Program, which improves reading retention for students during the summer months, and students attending four UM schools in Liberia. To date, more than 150 Michigan UMCs have given to the campaign, with more than \$185,000 collected.

Bishop David Alan Bard was welcomed back as presiding bishop of the Michigan Conference. He has been assigned by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference to preside at our Conference through August 31, 2024. His leadership, pastoral care and preaching was appreciated throughout the annual Conference session. Bishop Bard has led with compassion and grace through difficult times of transition and stress.

The Rev. Grace Imathiu, senior pastor of the First UMC, Evanston, IL was the guest teacher and preacher at this year's Annual Conference. Rev. Imathiu is a gifted Bible teacher and is in demand all around the world. Michigan was blessed to have her present for teaching and preaching each day of the Conference. Faithful to the Word and attentive to the relevant application of the Biblical text, Imathiu was quoted as saying "We've done 40 years of exile in three years, and we are exhausted."

The Rev. John Boley, familiar friend and previous District Superintendent to our own local church, has served in retirement as special assistant to the Bishop in giving counsel and leadership assistance to churches that were moving toward disaffiliation from the UMC. John said, "The Bishop and Jennie Browne (Clergy Assistant to the Bishop) have set the tone that we would do this (disaffiliation) amicably and cooperatively and in a Christian spirit."

The Michigan Conference passed the motion to approve the disaffiliation of 60 congregations that have voted to leave the Michigan Conference of the UMC. This represents about 8% of the 721 churches within the conference. Another 20 congregations are anticipated to disaffiliate at a special Conference called for the end of November 30, 2023.

The 2024 Conference Budget was approved for \$9,272,698 reflecting a 20.1% decrease from the 2023 budget and also reflecting the reduced number of supporting churches. Similarly, the number of Districts in the State of Michigan UMC were reduced from nine to seven. The Cassopolis UMC remains in the Greater Southwest District of the Michigan Conference.

Newton House 1st Sundays

June - October 2023

Open House 1:00-4:30

Special Events 2:00 PM

The first Sunday of each month, June through October, the the Cass County Historical Society will host an open house from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the historic Newton House, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur, MI 49045, adjacent to Russ Forest Park.

July 2: Garden Party

Garden talk and tour, with refreshments and music.

August 6: Kiddies Day Parade

Costumes, decorated bikes, wagons, pets (leashed or caged), participant prizes.



Our church has received another check in the amount of \$50.01 from the Harding's Rewards Program. Thank you to all our members who are participating. If you are NOT participating, please consider doing so. Contact the church secretary or go to Hardingscommunityrewards.com.

HUMOR FOR JULY

Never tell secrets in a garden.

The potatoes have eyes. The corn has ears. The beans stalk.



JULY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
						1	
2 Worship 10AM Holy Communion	3	4 	5	6	7	8	
9 Worship 10 AM	10 Keith & Sheila Baker 	11	12 <i>Tim Heath</i>	13 <i>Tim & Liana Heath</i> 	14	15	
16 Worship 10 AM	17 Cacy May- Fox Carey May- Fox	18 Sewing Sewers 10 AM	19 Arden May- Fox	20	21 Jeanne Garber Mike Hiemstra	22 St Pul Lutheran Food Pantry 11:30 - 1 PM	
23 Worship 10 AM <i>Betty Rutz</i>	24 Bob & Diane Sumption 	25 <i>Evie Westrate</i>	26	27	28	29	
30	31 Mike Fox						

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