

						SATURDAY	
						Men's Group 9am	
						Easter Bunny Lunch 11am - 2pm	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	1	
Communion Palm Sunday AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm 2	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm 3	Pinecrest 2pm PPRC 6:30 pm 4	Food Pantry 10am Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm 5	Men's Brkfst 8am 6	Good Friday Service St Anthony's 1:00pm  7	Men's Group 9am 8	
Easter Brkfst 9am 9	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm 10		Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm 11	VBS Meeting 10am 12		Men's Group 9am 13 14 15	
AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm 16	No Wmn's Bible Study 17		Food Pantry 10am Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm 18	Men's Brkfst 8am Willing Workers 10am 19		Men's Group 9am 20 21 22	
AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm 23	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm 24	BOG Mtg 7pm 25	Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm 26			Men's Group 9am 27 28 29	
AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm 30	<b>BIRTHDAYS:</b> April 1 Katy Stone April 4 Rob Strittmatter April 4 Sylvia Truman April 9 Jeanne Ryan April 10 Matthew Wallis April 12 Lowell Barnett April 13 Ken Laninga April 17 Betsy Naumer April 22 Roxana Strieby April 25 Lisa Wallis April 26 Joan McGowan-Nash April 28 Deb Downing April 28 Donna Ptashnik <b>ANNIVERSARIES:</b> April 12 Ron & Laurene Irwin April 19 George & Gail Ranville						



United Methodist and ECO Presbyterian  
**The Church of the Straits**



P.O. Box 430 \* Mackinaw City, MI 49701

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Mike's Musings

Inspiration comes from unlikely sources sometimes. I went to see the movie "Jesus Revolution" and was inspired. There was a scene where this pastor of a failing church saw a news broadcast with hippies protesting and he said, "They just need a bath and a haircut." He was really put off by the way they looked. He later got to meet a hippie who was a Jesus follower and had a change of heart. Soon after that he invited the hippie and his friends to his church, and they filled it up. The members of the church were not pleased and told him that the hippies were getting their new carpet dirty with their dirty feet. So, the next week the pastor met everyone at the door, and he washed their feet before they came into the church. Of course, the crowd in the movie theater cheered, but I cried a little. You see it got me thinking about who I might be writing off because I don't like how they look, or how they believe, or how they act or even how they talk.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." When you and I accepted Christ as our savior he took all our sin away. We were clean, but we had to work at following Christ. Some things were easy and other things were more difficult. A change was made but also we had to do things differently and do different things. This is what is called **CHANGE**. Change doesn't always happen overnight. I can tell you that God is still changing me on a daily basis. Scripture gives us many examples of how we should act, but we must be listening and following that good instruction. In Romans 12:2 says, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

I think I may speak for many of us when I say I don't like change. I like things to stay the same, but God's word constantly reminds me that the old way I did things needs to change. 1 John 1:6 says, "So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth." 1 John 1:8-9 says, "If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." I am convinced that God is not done dealing with me and my sin. He wants me to change and see things in a new way.

There are many ways to get change in my life. Study God's word daily. I don't mean just reading it, or memorizing it, or repeating it, or just writing it down until you get it. Pray for help from all parts of God. i.e. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Maybe even talk to your friends about what needs to change in your life. Let them help you be accountable. I will end with this question for you. What needs to change in your life today to bring you to a closer walk with God?

**Last Food Pantry for the season: April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Pinecrest Fellowship** is the first Tuesday of each month from **2-3 pm**. There will be a short devotional, prayer, and refreshments. Everyone is welcome to come and visit with the residents.



**Operation Christmas Child**  
Please continue to shop for shoebox items throughout the year. **April is small stuffed animals and dolls.**



**Memorial Day Parade Float Help Needed!!**

We will be handing out books for kids at the Memorial Day Parade to help share info on our childrens programs. Help is needed with Planning, Decorating, and building the Float, as well as help in the parade. Planning meeting on **April 10<sup>th</sup>** at 10am. Please sign up in the fellowship hall.

**Good Friday Service April 7th**

We will have a joint service at St Anthony's for Good Friday April 7th at 1pm. Please plan to join us!



**Good Friday Prayer Time**

The church will be open on Good Friday from 1pm to 5pm for a time of prayer and remembrance. There will be a devotional to read over and time for reflection.

**Free Clothing**

from the

**Community Clothes Closet**

Infant thru Adult Sizes

3 Days: 10 AM – 4 PM

Tue – April 18

Wed – April 19

Thur – April 20

**Community of Christ**

9854 S River Rd. Cheboygan

Corner of M-33 & S. River Rd.

(Half mile from M-27)

Everyone is Welcome

290-0593(Steph) or 420-9296(Ina) 625-2900(Church)

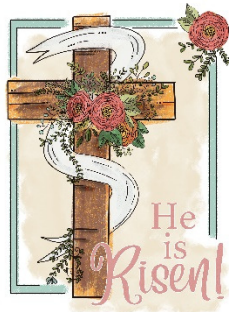


### **Easter Service April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**

All are invited to celebrate our risen Lord!

### **Easter Breakfast Potluck**

Please join us for breakfast on Easter Sunday April 9th at 9am. Please sign up in the fellowship hall and bring a dish to pass. Setup and clean up help also needed.



### **Coffee Hour Help Needed:**

We're always looking for helpers! There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for the coming months. Please don't feel you have to do an "elaborate spread". Cookies and coffee, some juice is all that is needed.



## SARM happenings

Upcoming April 1st the Easter Bunny Luncheon. All children and families are invited. Welcome to this event!

We will have games, prizes, lunch, Easter egg hunt, and a visit from the Easter bunny. This event will take place at The Church of the Straits from 11 AM to 2 PM. Please come and enjoy some family fun!

On going: Change to make a change April through June is a Purse with a Purpose. All donations will go to the Northern Michigan's Women's Shelter for women in need. Most women leave their homes with nothing.

Please fill a purse with travel size hand sanitizer, Kleenex, sanitary products, hand lotions, tooth paste, toothbrush, shampoo, and conditioner just to name a few. Also, we will be taking donations of these items for SARM youth to pack purses.

Do you know a child that would be interested in attending Sunday school that needs transportation? Sunday school is the second through the fourth Sunday of each month from 10:30 AM to 12:00 noon We can help please contact Shannon Cooley at the church of the straits. Wednesday through Friday 11 AM to 2 PM (231)436-8682.

**Much love and God bless, Shannon Cooley**



### **April 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Bunny Breakfast 11am-2pm**

\*SARM Straits Area Resort Ministry \*COS The Church of the Straits

\*YMS Youth Ministry Sunday \*MC Mackinaw City.

All changes to SARM schedule will be posted on SARM Youth Facebook page or you can always contact youth director Shannon Cooley at COS (231) 436-8682 for updates

# Straits Talk Newsletter

## April 2023



The Mission of The Church of the Straits  
To worship God faithfully  
To grow together spiritually  
To serve Jesus Christ and  
our neighbor joyfully  
...in the power of God's Spirit.

### OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Minister	Pastor David Wallis
Youth Director	Shannon Cooley
Head Ushers	Todd Kohs and Carl Strieby
Organist	Loretta Martinek
Treasurer	Donna Falor
Financial Secretary	Laura Jackson
Clerk	Laura Jackson
Administrative Asst.	Joshua Kuehn

Office Phone: 231 436-8682  
Office Hours – M-Th 9am-2pm

**Pastor's cell: 906 282-7409**

E-mail – Pastor – [davidloveslisa87@gmail.com](mailto:davidloveslisa87@gmail.com)  
Church office – [cotsoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:cotsoffice@yahoo.com)  
Church website – [www.thechurchofthestraits.com](http://www.thechurchofthestraits.com)

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It seems like we have just been through a month of a lot of winners and losers. Many are familiar with the term March Madness. Whether it's the NCAA tournament or the NIT tournament there are a whole bunch of losers with only one team coming out ultimately as the winner. The MHSAA playoffs took place with our own school Mackinaw City Comets being represented very well as both guys and gals went to regionals with the gals winning the regional championship for the first time ever. I believe they were good enough to make it to the finals, but it wasn't to be. They, like all of us, have to experience losing as well.

By the time you read this newsletter, I will have preached a sermon on the subject of this article, but I am led none the less to share a shortened version here. When making peace after a war, who is expected to give up and give in the most? The answer obviously is the loser gives up the most. The victor controls the terms!

What is interesting to me is that as we approach Easter there was an established Sovereign (winner or king) which is Jesus. There was also an established vassal (loser or enemy conquered) which is sin and as sinners we were enemies as Romans 5:10 states "when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life."

The winner, Jesus, reconciled us like a victorious king would do when cutting a covenant with the loser. But what is amazing here is that the one who paid dearly was not the vassal (sinner – me) but the Sovereign (Jesus). He died and paid a horrible price while we paid nothing and reaped an eternal reward, the forgiveness of sins. This seems backward but what it really reveals is just how much our King loves us as he became victorious through his resurrection.

I am thrilled to be the vassal and serve the King! He paid dearly and I paid nothing, but I am eternally beholden to him and count it a privilege to serve the one who won my freedom. Christ made the loser (me) the winner! He looked like a loser on the cross, but he came back on Sunday as the winner. Ohhhhhh the irony. And oh the sweet victory.

Aren't you glad he did what he did. Aren't you glad he a paid we couldn't pay! We are the recipients of the greatest gift ever given.

Happy Easter because of Good Friday!

Love you all,

Pastor Dave

