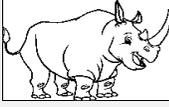




# August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		Pinecrest 2pm	Bible Journaling 2pm			Men's Group 9am	
		1	2	3	4	5	
Communion Congrgn Mtng 11:30am AA3pm Prayer Group 6pm	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm 	<b>ROAR VBS</b> Monday - Friday 9am-Noon				VBS Program Noon 	Men's Group 9am
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
AA3pm Prayer Group	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm		Bible Journaling 2pm	Men's Breakfast 8am Willing Workers 10am		Men's Group 9am	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
AA3pm Prayer Group	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm	BOG Mtg 7pm	Bible Journaling 2pm			Men's Group 9am The Sound Concert 8pm	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
AA3pm Prayer Group	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm		Bible Journaling 2pm				
27	28	29	30	31			

**BIRTHDAYS:**

August 1	June Toth	August 15	Caitlin Ryan
August 1	Rick Stone	August 15	Wayne Clemens
August 2	Kim Flemming	August 18	Lynn Bell
August 4	Danna Marvin	August 20	Bev Jones
August 9	Ed Palenkas	August 21	Wilhelmina Ranville
August 9	Donna Falor	August 21	Bernadette Ranville
August 9	Werner Schoenknecht	August 22	Nelson Thompson
August 10	Jon Cool	August 22	Mike Krueger
August 12	Denny Qualey	August 22	Lou Ann Sellers
August 14	Jennifer O'Brien	August 26	Jerry Smith
August 14	Laura Jackson	August 31	Andrea Sarto

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

August 3	Terry & Jennifer Davis
August 6	Ed & Sue O'Dwyer
August 8	Mike & Karen Krueger
August 8	Roger & Debbie Moore
August 17	Dick & Jane Spayde
August 22	Hank & Nancy Hinsman
August 23	Mike & Connie Ware
August 25	Werner & Gay Schoenknecht
August 28	Cless & Judy Hurlburt

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES**

Global Methodist and ECO Presbyterian  
**Church of the Straits**



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

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Mike's Musings

Life can be hard. I have come to believe that many times we bring many problems upon ourselves. Sometimes we put ourselves in financial trouble by not planning for future events, or our health is made worse by not taking care for what we eat or

drink. Sometimes we get involved with the wrong people and we have our hearts broken. I'm sure if you look back on some of your own problems that you can find problems you could have avoided. I say this because I want you to know God has a plan for you. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

God's plans don't always look like what we think they should be. I can tell you from experience that God wants the best for us. I have been the enemy of God and now I want to be a servant for Him. When I was at odds with God I didn't like being told what to do. I wanted to do what I wanted to and felt God wanted to just keep me from having fun. I couldn't have been more wrong. What I thought were restrictions were guardrails that kept me on the right path.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians trying to give them instructions that would help them be in line with God's will. "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24 then he later goes on to tell how we can accomplish this in Ephesians 4:31-32 that says, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."

It isn't easy being a Christian, but it does have its perks. God is always there when we need Him; he wants the best for us always. So when you find yourself in a place you don't like, call out to God and I know he will give you answers. Sometimes we just need him to hold us while we go through whatever it is we have gotten ourselves into. I like to say that God has gotten me through every hardship I have been in so far. What makes me think he won't get me through this one too? He wants the best for you too.

**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**

We've been gathering items to fill boxes in November. These are just suggestions – look for items on sale or clearance! **August is school supplies month! Colored and regular pencils, sharpeners, crayons, note pads, rulers, scissors, glue sticks...the list is endless! And now is when school supplies are on sale 😊**



**Service Time Change**

We are currently in our summer worship schedule with service at 10am and Adult Bible Study at 9am. We will be returning to regular 10:30am Worship the Sunday after Labor Day.



**SAVE THE DATE!** "The Sound"

(a Dove-award winning Southern Gospel trio) is coming to Mackinaw City's "Music in Mackinaw" series on Saturday, Aug. 26 at Conklin Park at 8 p.m. COTS is the sponsor. Please plan to attend and bring your friends, neighbors and lost/found tourist visitors. Any questions, please call Sue O'Dwyer at 404-384-9940

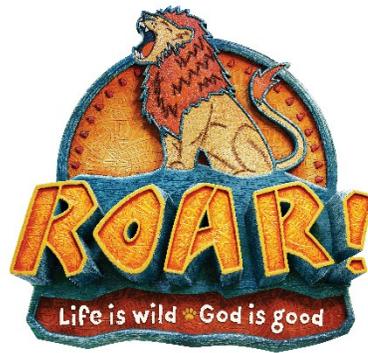


**VBS is almost here!! !!**

VBS is August 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am – noon with the Friday Parent Program from 12-12:30 pm.

Our theme this year will be **ROAR! Life is Wild,**

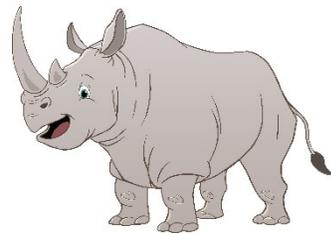
**God is Good!** At Roar, kids discover that God is good even when life gets wild! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour



yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Wild Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love! Each day concludes with the Safari Celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time.

VBS is open to age 4 – to those going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade. **\*\*Pre-registration is encouraged!** Please call the office 231-436-8682.

Instead of asking for specific craft items or specific food items, we've found we can get exactly what is needed and avoid duplicates or missed items if we take donations. Thank you in advance for supporting our community VBS program! If you have any questions, please contact Kim 248.345.6017. Thanks!



**New Church Website Address:**

[www.churchofthetraits.com](http://www.churchofthetraits.com)



McLaren Hospice is currently seeking individuals willing to give a few hours a month to visit patients in nursing facilities and/or patients' homes. No experience in healthcare is necessary to volunteer. It is extremely rewarding and takes so little time to make a big difference by providing companionship, respite, or your special talents. Please contact Sarah at 231-627-2031 x2122 or sarah.battice@mclaren.org



**Congregational Meeting Aug 6<sup>th</sup> After Worship**

We will be meeting to discuss replacing the windows in the sanctuary. Several are in dire need of repair. The meeting will be exploring options for purchasing and funding. Please plan to attend immediately following worship.



**Window Repair**

**Want something mentioned in the newsletter?**  
Let the Church Office know! Thanks.

# SARM happenings

## Recent Events



Sunday Sundaes at Kilwins and Packing "Purses with a Purpose"



Enjoying the newly remodeled nursery!

## Upcoming Events

**August 7-11<sup>th</sup>** ROAR Vacation Bible School 9am to Noon  
**August 26<sup>th</sup>** "The Sound" 8pm at Heritage Conklin Park in Mackinaw City  
 Southern Gospel Trio

**Ongoing:** Change to make a change: SARM is accepting donations for the AA Crisis Pregnancy Center contact Shannon for more info.

**Shannon Cooley at Church of the Straits. Wednesday through Friday 11 AM to 2 PM (231)436-8682**

\*SARM Straits Area Resort Ministry \*COS 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

## August 2023



The Mission of 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.

Minister	Pastor David Wallis
Youth Director	Shannon Cooley
Head Ushers	Todd Kohs, Carl Strieby
	John Birchfield
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.churchofthestrains.com](http://www.churchofthestrains.com)

### OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship 10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Youth Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JESUS CHRIST**  
 IS THE SAME YESTERDAY  
 AND TODAY AND FOREVER.

HEBREWS 13:8



Everybody experiences change in their lives whether they want it or not. I just noticed that our local school has several new openings for teachers. The ones I know that are leaving are good teachers and either leaving for retirement or other reasons. I have witnessed people experiencing change because of health-related issues, loss of loved ones, Moving out of the area, or starting a new chapter in their lives.

This past month has included a lot of the above and I have to admit it leaves me mildly uncomfortable to see so much change so quickly. But life is not under my control, and I can't have my way with everything so what do I do?

Hebrews 13:8 reminds me that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." That is comforting to me. He is in control, and we can count on his unchanging grace to help us maneuver through changes in life. Although we don't know what the future holds, we know the one who holds the future. Revelation 1:8 says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, 'says the Lord God', who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." This means he was in the beginning (John 1:1) and he knows the end before we get there, so don't you think he can handle the present as well.

If you want insight into what God is doing, be reminded of this as well (Isaiah 40:8), "the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." Read his Holy Word to discover what God has done, is doing and will do. He does gives us glimpses into what is up in the world and how we operate as sin-stained people who need to be transformed and guided by the Holy Spirit of God, through Christ our Lord.

So although change is inevitable and anxiety sometimes comes with that change, practice holy patience in knowing that God will guide us through those periods of "what's next" and we will need not fear that God has been thrown for a loop. He knew before it happened, and he will walk us through it all. We will never be alone, and he will "never leave us or forsake us" (Deut. 31:6).

So that is where I will hang everything, on God and his faithfulness, God and his all knowingness, God and his all-powerfulness. It is good to be a child of God redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus.

God bless you all,

Pastor Dave

