




SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Men's Brkfst 8am 1		Men's Group 9am 3
Communion Comm Christmas 2-4pm AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm 4	Missions Meeting 1pm Wms's Bible Study 3pm Poinsettia Orders Due! 5	PPRC 6:30pm 6	Bell Choir 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm 7			Men's Group 9am 10
AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm 11	Wms's Bible Study 3pm 12		Pantry 10am Bell Choir 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm 14	Men's Brkfst 8am 15		Men's Group 9am SARM Coat Shopping 10am 17
Annual Potluck AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm 18	Wms's Bible Study 3pm 19	 20	Bell Choir 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm 21			 CHRISTMAS EVE 24
	Wms's Bible Study 3pm 26	BOG 7pm 27	Pantry 10am Bell Choir 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm 28			 Happy New Year! 31

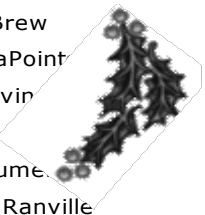
BIRTHDAYS:

Dec 1 Teri Bell
 Dec 2 Julie Burnett
 Dec 3 Roy Cole
 Dec 7 Todd Janeczek
 Dec 7 Hank Hinsman
 Dec 9 Sue Austin
 Dec 12 Bill Doest
 Dec 13 Ron McClue

Dec 14 GingerMannarino
 Dec 18 Naomi Gomez
 Dec 21 Lana Qualey
 Dec 22 Pastor Dave
 Dec 22 Rose LaPointe
 Dec 26 Debbie Moore
 Dec 28 Ann Hayes

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dec 1 Nelson & Denise Thompson
 Dec 5 Chuck & Ginny Brew
 Dec 16 Nelson & Rose LaPointe
 Dec 18 Bill & Danna Marvin
 Dec 18 Spencer & Sue A
 Dec 29 Walt & Betsy Naume
 Dec 31 Danny & Quincy 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

I recently turned 60 and I had a real struggle with the fact that I'm getting older. I'm not a young man anymore, but then I thought, why is that a bad thing? I'm retired and I don't have to work for a living. That's a good thing. I've learned many things

in my years on this earth and that helps me be wise in making my decisions, which is also a good thing. But I think the best thing I've learned is I don't know everything.

Over the many years of being a Christian I've been taught things that weren't scriptural. Legalism is one of those things. Legalism is one of those things that drive people away from the church. I once heard it said that Christians are the single most reason people are dying and going to hell. Legalism says if you're not like me you're not a Christian. That can be things like the version of your bible or how you get baptized. These are manmade things, but how do we know what God really wants for us?

Romans 12:1 says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God..." You see I used to just believe what people told me, but people can be wrong, or make mistakes. God knows I've made plenty of them. The only way I can find truth is to read God's word. This renewing of our minds happens when we dig deep into God's word. Then we find out what God's will is for us. I've learned in my lifetime that I have been wrong and so have others, but God is never wrong. So here is some advice from someone who has learned a thing or two from God's word. Seek out the truth in God's word daily. Don't trust everything people tell you and know God has all the answers you are looking for if you will only consult His word.

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.



Thank You!

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you for your generous gift for Clergy Appreciation Month. My wife and I have always felt very appreciated and supported. You are loved and cherished. Thanks again, Pastor Dave and Lisa!



A Huge Thank You to Sue Kohs for organizing the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. It was wonderful and appreciated by all!



Operation Christmas Child Thank You! to everyone who helped support this outreach. We shipped 131 boxes this year. Please keep an eye out for sales of small items for next year!



The Food Pantry is open for the 2022-23 season. The Pantry will run every other Wednesday 10-11:00 am. for the winter months. Donations can be dropped off at the church M-Th from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Cash donations can be made to the

Church of the Straits, c/o food pantry. Helping Hands on Wednesdays are always welcome!! If you have questions, call Rose LaPointe at 436-5307. December Dates: 14th and 28th

Do You Believe In Santa?

If the answer is yes, please join christian author June Baily for a storytelling event. Sunday, December 11th from 2-4pm at Church of the Straits. She will share her new book "Santa Secret Training Center" with all of us. Treats and crafts will be provided for all attendees.



A Christmas Story:

Theologian Halford Luccock once saw a shopper "who looked like an animated Christmas tree with packages dangling from every limb." When he retrieved some dropped bags, she grumbled that Christmas "turns everything

upside down." Luccock replied, "That is just what it was made for!"

He explained: "Christmas is a story about a baby, and that is a baby's chief business, turning things upside down. ... A baby in a family divides time into two eras, just as Christmas does. There is B.C., which means 'before child,' and A.D., which means 'after deluge.'"

When God became flesh, the lowly, last, least and lost were exalted, added Luccock. As a result, "the locked-up treasures of kindness and sympathy come from the inside of the heart, where they are often kept imprisoned, to the outside of actual expression in deed and word." The Christ-child "enables all [people] to get at the best treasures of their lives and offer them for use."



Our Annual Church Christmas Potluck will be held on Sunday, December 18th following worship. Bring your own table service and a favorite holiday dish to pass ☺



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

Looking back SARM youth packed Christmas shoe boxes with toys and hygienic products for needy children around the world. SARM also hosted a coffee hour ice cream social after church on Sunday Nov. 20 that was a sweet success! Thank You volunteers and all of the people that donated to SARM.

Looking forward December 11 from 2-4 pm at the church of the straits we will have Christian author June Bailey read her new children's book "Santa Secret Training Center." It will be a do not miss Christmas event with crafts, treats and hot Coco for all attendees. Also 5-12 grade Youth SARM is inviting you to a winter Blast Retreat January 13 through the 15th please contact Shannon Cooley at COS as soon as possible to receive your spot.

On going: Help keep children warm this winter. SARM annual coats for kids coat Drive started November 1st. you can drop off donations of new coats at the COS between 9-2 daily Monday through Friday or make a \$\$ donation for SARM. All donations will be used by youth group to go shopping for new coats for local children in need. Please have donations in no later than December 15.

Thank you for all your prayers and support for SARM youth program. God bless and much love, Shannon Cooley



Fall and **WINTER**



S.A.R.M. Schedule

All SARM youth activities are free of charge and open to all youth



Dec-11 YMS* Children Community Christmas party 2-4pm COS*

Dec 17 10 am Shopping for coats for kids and pizza lunch date meeting at Dunhams in Cheboygan

*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

December 2022



The Mission of The Church of the Straits
To worship God faithfully
To grow together s
piritually
To serve Jesus Christ and
our neighbor joyfully

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Church office – cotsoffice@yahoo.com

Church website – www.thechurchofthestrains.com

Dear COS family,



We can't believe that this is our 17th Christmas here. So many things have transpired in that time. Our kids have grown, graduated, gotten married (or engaged), our family expanded with wonderful sons-in-law and a daughter-in-law and finally our precious grandkids. Our church family has also changed over the years. We have welcomed new members to our family, some have moved on to a new chapter in life and we have lost some loved ones. Some changes are exciting and very much anticipated while others are difficult. Isn't it wonderful when God puts the people we need in our path when we need them. Sometimes we have them for a lifetime, and some are just for a season in this wonderful journey of life. We are so blessed to have you in this season of our life.

As we prepare for Christmas, remember the gift that was given to each of us on Christmas Day. Once you accept that gift of love, forgiveness, and the promise of eternity with our Lord and Savior share it, not just during the Christmas season but every season.

Thank you for all your love, support, and prayers. May you each have a Merry Christmas.

We love you.

Pastor Dave and Lisa