

December

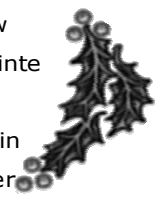
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
						Men's Group 9am		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm	Wms's Bible Study 2pm	PPRC 6:30pm	Pantry 10am Bell Choir 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm	Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm	Wms's Bible Study 2pm		Bell Choir 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm	Poinsettia Orders Due!		Men's Group 9am		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
Annual Potluck AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm	Wms's Bible Study 2pm	BOG 7pm	Pantry 10am Bell Choir 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm	Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am		
24 / 31	25	26	27	28	29	30		
AA 3pm Christmas Eve 7pm						Men's Group 9am		

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

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dec 1 GingerMannarinc
 Dec 5 Naomi Gomez
 Dec 14 Lana Qualey
 Dec 18 Pastor Dave
 Dec 22 Rose LaPointe
 Dec 26 Debbie Moore
 Dec 28 Ann Hayes
 Dec 1 Nelson & Denise Thompson
 Dec 5 Chuck & Ginny Brew
 Dec 16 Nelson & Rose LaPointe
 Dec 18 Bill & Danna Marvin
 Dec 18 Spencer & Sue Austin
 Dec 29 Walt & Betsy Naumer
 Dec 31 Danny & Quincy Ranville



Global Methodist and ECO Presbyterian
Church of the Straits



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Mike's Musings

How do we know we are Christians? Jesus in Chapter 14 in the book of John was trying to explain to his disciples that he was going to have to go, but that we need not worry he would someday return for all who follow him. He told them he was going to his father's house to prepare a place for us. That is very comforting. Then he told them he was going to send the Holy Spirit to live within those who followed. Then Thomas asked him where he was going and how we can go there. In John 14:6 Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

That seems simple; Jesus is the only way to Heaven, but he goes on later in the chapter to say this in John 14:15-18, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." Then in John 14:23 he says, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Jesus says to keep his commandments and later to keep his word. How do we do that if we don't know his word? You have to be in God's word to do this. We put God's word in us and the Holy Spirit then helps us to remember that word and we change our behavior. How much time do you spend in God's word? These are questions you will have to answer for yourself.

I have friends who like sports and talk a lot about sports. I have friends who like cars and they talk a lot about cars. You see what we like we talk about. I love Jesus and I talk a lot about Jesus. Jesus wants us to be fully committed to him. Sure, I can talk about cars or sports or almost any subject you want to speak of, but I love to talk to people about Jesus because I want others to love Jesus like I do. I'm not anyone special but the God I serve is special. Jesus is coming back and we don't know when that will be. Will he find you keeping his word and his commandments, or will you be left behind not knowing who Jesus really is?



Operation Christmas Child

Thank You! to everyone who helped support this outreach. We shipped 144 boxes this year. Please keep an eye out for sales of small items for next year!

Blood drive info: December 5, 2023

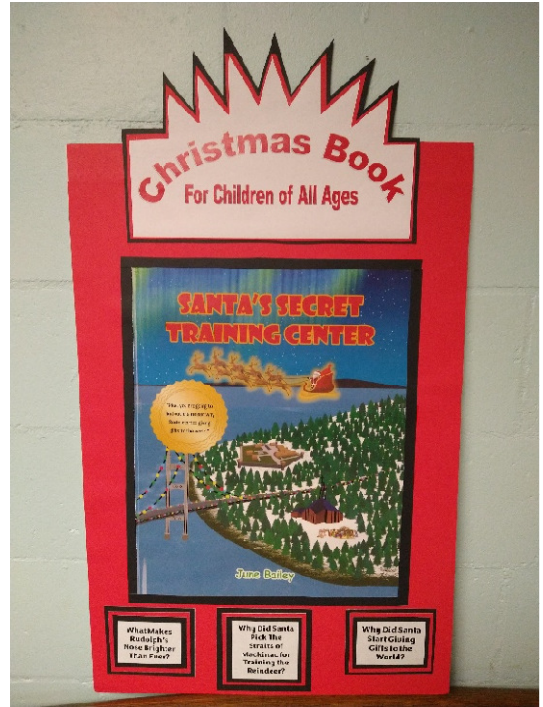
Mackinaw Woman's Club and St. Anthony Catholic Church are hosting a Community



Blood Drive on December 5, 2023, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, at the St Anthony's Parish Hall, 600 W Central Ave, Mackinaw City. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. Call Donna Falor at 231-445-0151 or visit versiti.org/miblood and search 'Mackinaw' to schedule your appointment on-line. Save lives across Michigan by donating blood.

Book by June Baily Available For Purchase

Please consider giving a gift of our book this Christmas Season. 100% of profits goes to children's ministires. "Santa's Secret Training Center" Paperback: \$14.95 Hardcover: \$21.95 Books will be available in the church office or you can contact June Baily 989-385-5050 Can also be purchased on Amazon.com or wherever books are sold.



**Christmas Eve Service
7pm on Sunday Dec 24th**



If you would like a plant to decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas season, please fill out the following form. After Christmas Eve, you may take your plant home, or give it away as a gift.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

Each 6" potted poinsettia is \$15.75. Your order must be in no later than Monday, December 14th at the church office.

Please make check payable to:

Church of the Straits
P.O. Box 430
Mackinaw City, MI 49701

Blue Christmas Celebration Dec 20th 7pm

This worship service includes opportunities for expression of grief, pain, and heartbreak as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope found in Jesus Christ. Join us as we worship together!



The Food Pantry is open for the 2023-24 season. December dates: 13th and 27th from 10-11:00 am. The Pantry will run every other Wednesday during the winter months. Donations can be dropped off at the church M-Th from 9:00am – 2:00pm.

Change to Make a Change Coats for Kids



Help S.A.R.M (Straits Area Resort Ministry) and the Salvation Army keep kids warm this winter! S.A.R.M is accepting donations of new coats and monetary donations for our youth group to go shopping for coats. Date TBA. Please have your donations in before Dec 17, 2023. Drop off location at Church of the Straits. Monday-Friday 10am to 2pm.

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 231-436-5307.

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

SARM happenings

Recent Events



Tree Decorating, Pumpkin Patch, and Trunk or Treat



Purchasing Items for Shoe Boxes

Upcoming Events

Dec 16th: Cheer for the Home Team at Mackinaw Schools. Games start at 9am
Date TBA: Purchasing Coats for Kids

Merry Christmas from S.A.R.M! Thank you for all your prayers and support for our Youth Programs. We wish you a blessed New Year!

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

December 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

Church office – cotsoffice@yahoo.com

Church website – www.churchofthestraits.com

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m.



Dear COS Family, another Advent season is upon us. It's time to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The season is filled with so many emotions. Joy, happiness, anticipation for the time we get to spend with our family, our Christmas traditions, parties, concerts, shopping, baking. It's also a time when some are struggling. We are missing family who can't be with us or missing those loved ones that have passed. Christmas

doesn't feel quite the same. So, in the midst of all the Christmas carols and the hustle and bustle of the season we can feel sad or a little lost.

As Christmas approaches may we all remember the reason for this season. Time to celebrate the birth of the baby born in a manger. He came, dwelt among us, then was crucified, buried and then, Praise God, he rose again. Truly the greatest gift ever given.

We pray as you prepare for the birth of the King that each of you will feel the love and joy of that gift.

We love you so much! You are family!!! Thank you for all the love and support as we continue to grow in Christ! May we shine the LIGHT of JESUS all around us.

Love and hugs,

Lisa and Pastor Dave

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!!!

