

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am
				1	2	3
Communion AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmns Bible Study 2pm	Pinecrest 2pm PPRC 6:30pm	Food Pantry 10am Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm			Men's Group 9am
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SARM Bowling 1pm AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmns Bible Study 2pm	Valentines Bingo 11:30 am	♥ Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm Ash Wednesday 7pm	Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pot Luck 12pm AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmns Bible Study 2pm 		Food Pantry 10am Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm			Men's Group 9am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmns Bible Study 2pm	BOG 7pm	Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm		 FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	
25	26	27	28	29		

ANNIVERSARIES:

- Feb 2 Scott & Cheryl Newman
- Feb 11 Ryan & Amber Newman
- Feb 15 Bud & Katy Stone
- Feb 23 Ron & Ann McClue
- Feb 27 Carl & Roxie Strieby
- Feb 29 Charlie & Kathy Heilman

BIRTHDAYS:

- Feb 1 Amanda Bosel
- Feb 2 Royce Ryan
- Feb 5 Eliana Walugemb
- Feb 5 Donna Canales
- Feb 8 Connie Ware
- Feb 10 Mary Marquis
- Feb 13 Marilyn Imeson

- Feb 16 Megan Wallis
- Feb 17 Wendy Orsini
- Feb 24 Julia Short
- Feb 24 Samantha Reed
- Feb 24 Bill Marvin
- Feb 26 Ken McGuire
- Feb 27 Burkleigh Wallis
- Feb 27 Cles Hurlburt
- Feb 28 Diane Stevens

Global Methodist and ECO Presbyterian
Church of the Straits



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Mike's Musings

I think sometimes we misunderstand our own salvation. I'm not sure about others, but I struggle with sin, every day in fact. I often imagine that God is angry with me, but he isn't. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in

Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." When we accepted Christ all our sin was taken away, and we were made a new creature. That means all sin, past, present, and future sin. Our position was changed by this. We are no longer sinners, but Holy and righteous. Not because of what we have done, but what Christ did by dying for our sin. You see we feel conviction when we sin because we have the Holy Spirit living within us.

John 5:24 says, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." So, we have been saved from eternal death, and now have eternal life. Many might say then we have a free pass to sin because Jesus has taken all my sin away. No, that isn't what I'm saying at all. Titus 2:11-14 says this, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works." Romans 12:2 says, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

So, when we sin our position doesn't change, but our relationship with God isn't quite right. We don't have to agonize that I'm such a bad person I can't live without sinning. No, we can see from scripture we need to confess it to God and get back to living Holy again. I sort of liken it to this; we are told we are Holy, but we don't believe we are holy because we keep struggling with sin. But listen to this Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." That is how much Jesus loved us, he knew we were weak and couldn't keep His law so he sacrificed himself to make it so we could. I'll end with this quote from C.S. Lewis's book *Mere Christianity*, "A Christian is not someone who never goes wrong, but who is enabled to repent and pick himself up and begin again, because the Christ life is inside him." Keep talking to God and reading His word, also tell others that they too can find peace in Jesus Christ. I hope someone that needed to hear this now knows you aren't alone in your struggle. We all do!

Want something mentioned in the newsletter?

Let the Church Office know! Thanks.
(231) 436-8682 or cotsoffice@yahoo.com



Operation Christmas Child
February ideas are accessories – sunglasses, hair ties, hats, bracelets, necklaces, small purses/tote bags, bandanas, watches, rings.



The Food Pantry is open for the 2023-24 season. February dates: 7th and 21st 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. 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.



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.

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.



Memorial Day Parade

We will be taking donations to help purchase books that will be handed out at the Memorial Day parade again this year.



Save the Date! The parade will be on Saturday May 25th, and we need people to walk with us and have room for 16 riders. Please plan to sign up and help out! Come have fun with us!

Thank You all so much for your concerns, prayers, and love. We are trying to go forward with prayers, joy, and laughter. We appreciate all hugs, handshakes, more jokes, laughter, and prayers. Much Love,

-The Striebly's

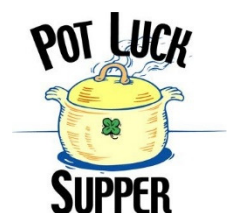
God's Got It!

New Midweek Bible Study

Lead by Michael Canales. Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 8pm starting on January 31st. We will be studying the book of Romans. The class will be geared to those of all faith levels, please plan to participate!

Pot Luck Feb 18th Following the Service

Please bring a big dish to share. All leftovers will be going to the Peruvian Kids.



Change to Make a Change: Hats and Mittens



We will be collecting newly purchased or handmade hats, mittens and socks for the Mackinaw City Elementary School, January through March!

Valentines Bingo Feb 13th 11:30am

All seniors and shut-ins please join us for a no cost bingo and Lunch.



SARM happenings

Recent Events



Shopping for Coats for Kids



Cheboygan Creation Station

Upcoming Events

Feb 11th: Bowling and Pizza at Spare Time Lanes 1-3pm

March 16th: Easter Bunny Lunch and Cake Walk

Thank you for your generous Donations to Straits Area Resort Ministry (S.A.R.M.) in 2023. Church of the Straits S.A.R.M. program is grateful to have your support. Through your donations we have been able to accomplish so much good for our community children and their families and continue working toward S.A.R. M'S future goals. S.A.R.M. programs could not exist without the generosity of people, like you!

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

February 2024



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

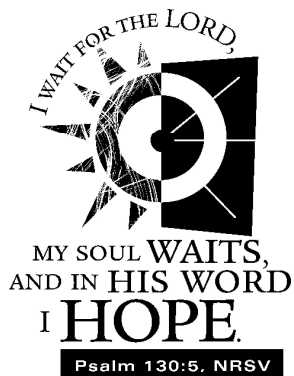
Church website – www.churchofthestrains.com

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m.



In the last two months I have learned of more delays than at any other time in my life. Several people I know had flight delays (including overnights), at least four people experienced rescheduled surgeries, a few package delays, and then there was our delayed winter with snow that just now arrived (I'm writing this on Jan 10th).

Life is full of delays, isn't it. What do delays cause us to do? I remember one delay in Scripture that caused almost the whole of Israel to turn away from God. In Exodus 32:1ff the people of Israel reacted to Moses delay this way, "when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the

mountain, they gathered themselves together to Aaron, and said to him, 'Come, make us gods, which shall go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.'"

What follows this interaction is Aaron bending to the wishes of the people and they built and worshipped a golden calf all because they hadn't heard from Moses when they wanted to hear from him, a delay. It was indeed a mess of sin and Moses had to have God inscribe a new set of stone tablet commandments.

How do we react to delays in God's answers? Do we give up on him and go to someone else? Do we try and fix the thing that needs fixed ourselves? Do we trust man more than God? Do we accuse God of being impotent or uncaring?

What we should do instead is lean even more heavily on God. We don't understand the future, but God does. We don't understand delays but maybe they are there for a reason, perhaps to protect us, or to steer us someplace else, or maybe just to teach us to patiently wait on the Lord.

Another text assures me that it's okay when God delays! Psalm 27:13-14 says, "I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Implied in this text (actually indicated earlier in Ps. 27) is that life might be tough presently, but God will answer us when the timing is His perfect timing.

Trust him even in the delays of life! He is trustworthy!

Love Ya,

Pastor Dave

