

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Bible Journaling 2pm	Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am
			1	2	3	4
Labor Day Sunday	Labor Day					
Service at Church 9am	SARN Bridge Walk	Pinecrest 2pm	Bible Journaling 2pm	Music & Worship 10am		Men's Group 9am
Service at Park 11am	meet at COS 7 am	PPRC 6:30pm				
AA 3pm						
Prayer Group 6pm	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						
Communion						
	Wms Bible Study 3pm		Bible Journaling 2pm	Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am
AA 3pm						
Prayer Group 6pm						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Youth Ministry Sunday						
Animal Tracks Golf	Wms Bible Study 3pm		Bible Journaling 2pm			Men's Group 9am
AA 3pm		BOG 7pm				
Prayer Group 6pm						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Cong. Meeting 10am						
	Wms Bible Study 3pm		Bible Journaling 2pm			
AA 3pm						
Prayer Group 6pm						
26	27	28	29	30		

BIRTHDAYS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Sept 3	Chad Robertson	Sept 21	Brenda Keller	Sept 1	John & Brenda Keller
Sept 4	Jim Churchill	Sept 21	Donna Hunt	Sept 6	Greg & Mary Stanley
Sept 5	Mary Lou Peters	Sept 22	Roger Moore	Sept 8	Terance & Jourdan Watson
Sept 6	Sue O'Dwyer	Sept 23	Larry O'Brien	Sept 10	Ken & Kristi Laninga
Sept 8	Emma Zabik	Sept 27	Rob Griffin	Sept 10	Matt & Shannon Cooley
Sept 8	Ron Irwin	Sept 27	Gene Kapp	Sept 12	Todd & Sue Kohs
Sept 10	Pastor Ed Weiss	Sept 27	Lorahdelle Darrow	Sept 14	Ross & Lynn Bell
Sept 11	Walt Naumer	Sept 28	Peter Walugemb	Sept 18	Rob & Katie Strittmatter
Sept 12	Madison Jutson	Sept 29	Pat Darrow	Sept 23	Ron & Linda Gwilt
Sept 14	Don Hawver	Sept 30	Greg Brown	Sept 23	Peter & Caitlyn Ryan
Sept 18	Kim Jutson	Sept 30	Ross Bell	Sept 28	Austin & Noelle Martin
Sept 21	Karin Thompson	Sept 30	Courtney Jaggi	Sept 30	Jim & Judy Churchill

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 have been writing about what a Christian life should look like for the past few months. Today I want to give you an example of what it shouldn't look like. When I was sixteen I had an experience that forced me to look at what could

happen if I died and didn't know Christ. Unfortunately, I was just looking for fire insurance. I didn't give my life to Christ but I began to play a Christian. I went to church. I got involved in church activities. I even went to Bible College, but I didn't know Jesus.

The sad truth of things is I was everything the world hates about Christians. I was judgmental, selfish, and self-centered. That better than tough attitude was my calling card. People I knew my whole life turned away from me because I had changed, and not for the good. I was playing a Christian, but had no clue what being a Christian was all about. I studied hard to learn scripture so I could be an authority over people. I wanted to have proof that I was right and others were wrong. The funny part was I thought I was justified in the things I was doing. God had other plans for me.

I lived many years of my life being a sinner and not doing what God intended for me to do. All along the way, God was trying to show me what he wanted for me but I wasn't convinced. I sat in the pew for some of those years but many I lived doing my own thing. Life tends to work that way when you don't have a relationship with Jesus. I have spent the last few years writing articles talking about what God has taught me. Most of all I didn't want any of you to suffer the pains I have suffered because of resisting the love Jesus offers to all of us. Jesus wants to have a truly special relationship with each of us. Regardless of our past, Jesus died to wipe out our sin debt. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I never knew what wonders God had in store for me until I surrendered to be under the Lordship of Christ. He has made hundreds of promises for those who walk with Him. If you don't know about these things I speak of it is all contained in the Word of God. I urge you to listen if you are just playing Christian. It is only too late if you don't make the change before you die.



Be Still and Silent

We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature — trees, flowers, grass — grow in silence; see the stars, the

moon, the sun, how they move in silence. ... The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us. All our words will be useless unless they come from within — words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.

~Mother Teresa



Learn From Leaves!

As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant

shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go!

~Janna Firestone



Operation Shoe Box 2021

Please continue to shop for shoebox items throughout the year. Below is only a suggestion for the month.

September is games, small puzzles, yo-yos, jacks, Etch-a-Sketch, marbles, jump ropes, etc... anything fun!!!.

Other needed items: activity pads, note pads, small cars, and items for older kid boxes.

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.



Labor Day Sunday,

September 5, 9:00 am worship at Church of the Straits, 10:30 am concert at Conkling Heritage Park, and then at the park for the 11:00 am worship service – special musical guest

Jim Quales formerly of 4 ONE Quartet. Join us for this beautiful Labor Day tradition.

Coffee Hour is back -

immediately following worship. Please join us for coffee, cookies and fellowship. 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 for the kids is all that is needed.





VBS 2021 was a huge success! A big thank you to all the contributors to our VBS program – registration, teachers, music crew, craft crew, games crew, the Coconut Snack Shack ladies, and Roger in the

Sound Booth, plus all the prayers for the kids and volunteers during the week. We had 23 children show up every day and several youth helpers!

Classes were evenly distributed and we discovered the 5 key truths about God's love. God's love is Giving – Kind – Caring – Forgiving and Forever! What a treasure we've been given in Jesus ♥ Our theme was S.O.S.. I explained to the kids that sailors use S.O.S as a distress signal, but for Christians, Jesus is our lifesaver! So S.O.S meant – Seeking Our Savior! And they seemed to love that ☺

The mission we supported this year was David Brown's Sole Searching for Jamaican Kids. Our kids brought in 20 pairs of new shoes for the school age children of Jamaica and raised \$300 to help with the shipping of the shoes back to Jamaica.

It's a bit crazy leading up to VBS, but the week was so much fun. We can't wait to do it again next year! Thank you again for all your support ~Judy Churchill, Director



Parrots – PreK & K



Flamingos – 1st & 2nd



Monkeys – 3rd & 4th



Dolphins – 5th thru 7th



S.A.R.M. Happenings



Youth Ministry Sunday in August, we went to the Park to see how tall Goliath was compared to David and the kids.

Then off to Kilwin's for Sunday Sundaes ☺



On going: *Change for a Change* to benefit the Northern Michigan Women's Shelter. "Purse with a Purpose" – purses filled with individual personal needs can be dropped off in the box outside the Youth Room. Or there is a list of items the shelter could use in Fellowship Hall

Coming Up:

September 6 – SARM is doing the Bridge Walk. Meet at COS at 7:00am. Please let me know if you are planning to walk!

September 13 – Youth Ministry Sunday – meet at COS at 10:30am to go play golf at Animal Tracks

October 11 – SARM Sunday Baked Potato Fundraiser

October 31 – last day for *Change for a Change* – get your items and/or purses to the church, thanks!

As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at the church 231.436.8682 or by email: cooleyshannon46@gmail.com

Much love and God bless,
Shannon Cooley, Youth Director

Straits Talk Newsletter

September 2021



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.

Minister Pastor David Wallis
Youth Director Shannon Cooley
Head Ushers Todd Kohs and
Greg Pietrowski
Organist Loretta Martinek
Treasurer Donna Falor
Financial Secretaries Janet Schaefer and Katie
Strittmatter
Clerk Laura Jackson
Secretary Judy Churchill

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Office Phone: 231 436-8682

New Office Hours – M-Th 9am-2pm

Pastor's Home Phone: 231 436-5484

E-mail – Pastor – davidlovelisa87@gmail.com

Church office – cotsoffice@yahoo.com

Church website – www.thechurchofthestraits.com

There will be a special **Congregational Meeting** before
worship on Sunday, September 26th at 10:00 am to

→

discuss the Pastor's housing allowance.

←

All members are encouraged to attend. Thank you!



I keep asking that the God of our
Lord Jesus Christ...



may give you the Spirit of wisdom
and revelation,
so that you may know him better.



Ephesians 1:17

Well, for many of you who haven't heard from the pulpit on Sunday mornings, my wife and I are purchasing our retirement home near Mackinaw City. But let me be clear, I am not retiring for a few years yet. We will be here as always.

One thing I have wanted to do shortly after moving is build a second garage because the house has a small, attached garage. What I am learning about is all the permits I must pull for it. Some of you can relate. Ha! Ha! There is the zoning permit and the foundation permit and the building permit. Also, you must have several inspections along the way. And I am sure there are other things I will discover as we go.

It is kind of complicated to buy a house and build buildings, isn't it! My hope is that the headaches along the way are worth it! In the end, they are just buildings, so I need to put all that into perspective.

I'm so glad our life in Christ doesn't come with a lot of hoops to "get in" or "to get it done". It's not like we have to get our life all together and then apply for the eternal kingdom. He takes us as we are and helps along the way. When we hit a dead end, He is there to take us another way.

Ephesians 1:17ff says, "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead."

Notice the text when it says that God gives us this wisdom and knowledge. He calls us and gives us hope. He gives us the inheritance and power. You see, it isn't in our effort that we accomplish all this but it is entirely by his grace that we acquire all this. It's not like the permits to build a building, in which all the permits are dependent upon our ability to complete the paperwork and actual work accurately (although help is available).

Thank you God for making it so simple, a child can understand (see Matthew 11:25, 18:3, 19:14). We trust and thank you in Jesus' name, Amen!

Love you,

Pastor Dave