

The MESSENGER

Rev. Paula Timm-Potrykus
989-826-5521 or 989-903-5264
July & August, 2022 Vol. 7&8.22

News from Around the Congregation

Mio United Methodist Church
1101 W. 8th St, Mio, MI 48647
989-826-5598

SPRC

As mentioned in the May newsletter, Rev Paula Timm-Potrykus will begin her assignment to Mio Church on July 3 in the pulpit.

For some of you, Rev Paula has already begun connecting. She attended our June 22 Ad Council meeting. We were able to share many of the activities and projects of the Church. Rev Paula was able to express her enthusiasm for coming to Mio and some ideas she could bring to us from her considerable experience.

In the May newsletter we mentioned that Rev Paula grew up in the church as the daughter of Rev Fred Timm, who served Mio for a few years when Paula was a toddler. She even remembers some our current members. Rev Paula was ordained an Elder in 1993 and took retirement status in 2020. She will be serving as a half time appointment at Mio. Married to Jon Potrykus, they presently live near West Branch.

As a special welcome on July 3, we are planning to have a "Brunch" potluck right after church service. Please find the signup sheet on the information table and sign up for what you plan to bring. Please come and get acquainted.

Bob Hegel SPRC Chair

All are Invited

to

LUNCH-E-BRUNCH

After Worship

Sunday, July 3rd

To Welcome Our New Minister

Rev. Paula Timm-Potrykus

Bring a dish to pass that would be for
For breakfast or lunch and would be tasty
with Family Fare Fried Chicken.

Greetings Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We are soon to be united in ministry through the workings of the Holy Spirit and the movement of God in our midst! Truly, nothing short of God's plans have brought into fruition our budding relationship. We will share together in its slow revealing.

I hope and pray that you trust in the greater power at work and are preparing yourselves in body and spirit for our coming time in service together. Please be in prayer that we would be surrounded by God's radiance and filled with the love of Christ, as we learn to care and accept one another.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Paula

Rev. Paula Timm-Potrykus

John Wesley's early Circuit Rider History Continues

The United Methodist Church is an itinerant church – meaning the pastors are moved on a regular basis from one church to another, at the authority of the Bishop and the Cabinet (consisting of the Bishop and District Superintendents). This historical process began with our founder John Wesley and the days of the Circuit Rider. Wesley liked the clergy to be young and single so that they could travel for months at a time away from home: preaching and teaching to the people in fields and towns. The itinerant process has evolved greatly over the years, thankfully! Today, the goal is for longer pastoral appointments, with advanced notice of a move. The itinerant system has its pros and cons, like most everything. It has changed a lot over the years. It is not always easy for the congregation, or the pastor, to accept and understand. But it is ours.

Most of our congregation has been through pastoral change many times before! How do we deal with this? We grieve. You've lost someone; that's okay. Express your grief in your own healthy way. God calls His children to be honest in every area of their lives, including loss. But after grief, we the congregation need to return to our mission and purpose in faith; to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Yes, some things will be different. Expect some changes with a new pastor. Do your best to resist quick judgements and comparisons. They are not helpful. Rev. Paula and Pastor Michelle are two different people with different experiences to draw on. Work to be open in body and spirit for what God may be doing here in our midst. You never know what seeds are being planted. Ask yourself instead; "How can I best help our congregation to be healthy and strong? What talents do I have that will help our ministry to the people and grow God's Kingdom?"

We believe that with God's help, all things are possible! God has hold of us now in our shift of seasons. The faithful will not be abandoned. Trust in God and our future will be secure.

Blessings on Michelle as she begins new with West Branch UMC. And blessings on us too, as we make new beginnings at Mio United Methodist Church with Rev. Paula.

Personal Reflection by Susan Hegel

While sitting in my prayer chair this glorious morning, I'm thinking, "Wow, am I ever discouraged, the world situation, the church situation, lives of some friends and family members and even my own out of balance with all God wants!" But I shouldn't be. I have a Lord and Savior who is our Ultimate Authority, all-knowing, all-powerful, reigning benevolently over us, and in all these situations. But then, there is the discouragement I'm feeling and I'm thinking: "so self, this is why you are coming to sit at your Lord's feet". When we feel he's far away we need to come closer to him. We need to meditate, read His word, pray, guard our hearts in Him. The world He has placed us in is enemy territory, so how can we expect not to be challenged when we live in the midst of it. Last year at this time, Bob and I were in Eustis, FL visiting the Rafiki home office for a time of Enrichment. One of our speakers was Dennis Johnson, a retired professor of Practical Theology. He spoke on "The Church in Exile" based on 1Peter 1 and said this... "We are God's exiles on this earth...How should we respond as Jesus followers?...Don't be surprised...Don't be ashamed....Don't be afraid...Don't be defiant...Don't be conformed. Be Hopeful, look to your future inheritance...Be Holy, stand out, draw near to people with love". I added to that "Be Helpful". As a Methodist I've learned that we have the helpful part in our genes. We have to do something to help others to be hopeful and encourage holiness at every turn. But first, we need to sit at His feet and get His instructions and not go off on our own agenda.

Mission Focus for July and August 2022

Part of doing Mission is the hard work of prayer and having faith in what is being done in answer to those prayers and the results of our giving. Rev. Dr. Carolyn Moore said that while we can see clearly maybe three things that God is doing in answer to our prayers, we don't see the 9,997 things that God is doing behind the scenes. That is especially true when the ministries are in distant locations and maybe we only hear from them once a year in a thank you note. But we are called by our Lord to give generously and support those in ministry, and have faith that God is using our gifts and answering our prayers in ways we can't imagine or know.

July Mission Focus

More than ever, we need to reach our young people with the message of hope and salvation through Jesus. One way is Student Ministry, and we have that opportunity through Anchor House at Lake Superior State University. This is an InterVarsity Christian Fellowship that's primary focus is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. I talked with Marty Feldhake who has been the director of Anchor House for 18 years and retired this past May. The Board is seeking candidates for a new director and also a Mission minded young person to lead this ministry on campus. 20 to 25 students were meeting outside because of covid up until October 2021. When heavy coats and blankets were not enough, they had to go online and their numbers dropped. Marty said the campus ministry is in great need of prayer and support so they can get going again. He is very hopeful and the LSSU Board is supportive along with members of the Sault Ste. Marie Central UMC. This local church has supported this ministry for many years. Let's give this ministry all the prayer and encouragement we can and give generously during the month of July to Anchor House at Lake Superior State University.

August Mission Focus

Part of doing mission's is the joy of hands-on ministry and in the past, we've collected supplies needed for Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL. I gave much thought to doing this, as we did last year, but getting things to them is beyond the budget with gas at \$5+. Recent correspondence reveals many needs and we can help with some of these by giving them cash to purchase the items. So, our August collection will be sent to them as cash. Let's be positive thinkers and know that things will get better. If you desire to make up kits for them there will be copies of lists of supplies for you to make up a bag or kit such as a Personal Dignity kit, School kit and others. The lists are available on the table in Fellowship Hall. They may not be used this year but look ahead to 2023. So, give as you are able to Midwest Mission Distribution Center during the month of August. Thanks and contact me if you are interested in participating on the mission committee for our church or want to share your ideas. 989-745-4467

Susan Hegel, Chm. Missions

DIRECT \$\$\$\$

WOW! Look how it's growing. The Direct \$\$\$\$ now stands at \$92,000. Keep those Family Fare receipts coming.

STILL IN NEED OF ALTAR FLOWERS

In the last newsletter the plea was put out for flowers for the altar with the suggestion of celebration. Celebration of a birthday, anniversary, etc.

Here is another suggestion: Maybe you could provide a plant for a Sunday or even 2 or even a month. See Marlene to give your help with altar flowers.

HAPPY CRAFTERS

If you enjoy fellowship with other ladies and would like time just to work on your hobby without outside interruptions, then the Happy Crafters is for you.

Spend any part or all of the 3 days in the church Fellowship Hall working on your projects. Crafters bring anything they need to work and leave it set up throughout the days they are there. The cost is \$10 per day.

Contact person for more info is Carol Lynn VanNorman at 810-441-4241.

Meeting dates: July 27, 28, and 29.
August 24, 25, and 26.

CALENDAR FOR JULY*

Worship – 9:30 am each Sunday (This time may change in the future. Call the office on Friday morning to get exact time.)

Trustees – July 3rd after worship

UWF (UMW) – July 18th at 1:00 pm

Prayer Bears – July 20th at 1:00 pm at Nancy Cranes'

Happy Crafters – July 27, 28, and 29 at 9:00 am.

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST*

Worship – 9:30 am each Sunday (This time may change in the future. Call the office on Friday morning to get the exact time.)

Trustees – August 7th after worship

Ad Council – August 8th at 7:00 pm

UWF (UMW) – August 15th at 1:00 pm

Prayer Bears – August 17th at 1:00 pm at Nancy Crane's

Happy Crafters – August 24,25, and 26 at 9:00 am

*All events are at the Mio United Methodist Church unless otherwise specified.

*Changes will be announced in the Sunday Worship Bulletin.

DID YOU KNOW ...

That there is a place to recycle used household batteries at the church?

Place used household batteries in the bucket on the bottom of the coat rack. They will then be taken for recycling.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

3 - Joan Trim
16 - Scott Janke
16 - Dorothy McGlynn
21 - Ellen Peters
25 - Sharon Contner

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

10 - Herb & Linda Atherton
13 - John & Gloria Phillips
14 - Gary & Becky Sidebottom
17 - Gar & Colleen Keith
29 - Dennis & Barb Kann
30 - Larry & Shar Lee

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 - Gary Sidebottom
5 - Linda Atherton
8 - Sandy Brown
26 - Laura Estep
31 - Betty Baker

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

11 - John & Marty Smith
14 - Bob & Susan Hegel
Lynn & Roma Calbraith
24 - Scott & Lorri Burzloff
31 - Larry & Carol Lynn VanNorman

*I used to ask God if He would come and help me,
and then I asked God if I might come and help
Him, and then I ended by asking God to do His own
work through me.*

---James Hudson Taylor

PRAYER CONCERNS

Charlie & Barb Abbott
Jill Allen
Irene Burger
Tonya DeGryse
Chester DeVooght
Nancy Dercher
Kirk Derrick
Gary Frazho
Vicki Gammey
Gerald & Joslin (missionaries)
Mary May
Craig Meyers
Dale Neff
Marna Olds
Angie Rizzardi
Sativa
Marty Smith
Kim Stitt
Taylor & Jackson
Andrea Walz
Avery Walz Simone
People in Ukraine

SHUT-INS

At The Brook - Grayling
Marge Bryant

MILITARY

All Armed Forces
Corey Brown
River Grishaber
Whitney Kann
Marshall Socia

Remember to help keep the Prayer Concerns current.