

# May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Men's Group 9am
					1	2
Communion AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm		Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm Bible Study 6:30pm	Men's Brkfst 8 am 	SARM Cheer for the Home Team 4pm	Men's Group 9am Crafting Bee 2pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mother's Day  AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm	Pinecrest 2pm	Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm Bible Study 6:30pm			Men's Group 9am
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm		Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm Baccalaureate 7pm	Men's Brkfst 9am		Men's Group 9am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	 Memorial Day	BOG Mtg 7pm	Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm Bible Study 6:30pm			Men's Group 9am
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sidewalk Prophets 7pm						
31						

**BIRTHDAYS:**

May 2	Brenda Bell	May 14	Samantha Sprague
May 3	Andrew Laninga	May 15	Alvina Williams
May 5	Judy Hurlburt	May 16	Linda Moore
May 5	Joshua Kuehn	May 24	Phyllis Stemkoski
May 6	Linda Gwilt	May 27	Chuck Brew
May 7	Sharolyn Metternich	May 27	Aubrie Reed
May 10	Michelle Williams	May 29	Denise Thompson

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

May 3	Larry & Jennifer O'Brien
May 14	To dd & Laura Janeczczek
May 15	Bob & Lyn Benefiel
May 28	Meaghan & Joshua Kuehn



Global Methodist and ECO Presbyterian  
**Church of the Straits**



P.O. Box 430 \* Mackinaw City, MI 49701

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Mike's Musings

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This verse doesn't say to be thankful only when things are going well. It challenges us to have a posture of gratitude even in trials. Why?

Because thankfulness aligns our hearts with God's will and reminds us of His ultimate control over our lives.

I have spoken before that I spent a long time being angry with God about an accident I had that injured my back. I was instantly thrown into a cycle of severe and chronic pain that was disabling. I had the wrong attitude. I wasn't looking at the good and positive things in my life. All I could see was that I was never going to be the same and I blamed God. I couldn't see another way, but God didn't punish me for this attitude He brought me back to right thinking. He showed me there was more; He showed me I was more than my pain.

Thankfulness is a form of worship. When we express gratitude, we acknowledge God as the source of every good thing. As James 1:17 reminds us, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." When we praise God for what we have, we deepen our relationship with Him, recognizing His hand in every aspect of our lives.

I want to give you a guide to how you can do this too. First, begin your day by thanking God for three things. It could be as simple as the gift of life, a sunrise, or a kind word from a friend. Second, write down your blessings daily. Over time, you'll see a pattern of God's provision and faithfulness. Third, express your gratitude to others, Thank those around you—family, friends, coworkers. A kind word of appreciation not only lifts others but also reinforces a thankful mindset. Fifth, choose to be content in whatever state you find yourself. In Philippians 4:11-12, Paul writes, "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." God knows our needs because He is with us. If I can tell you anything I would say that adopting an attitude of gratitude will always serve you well. So don't make the mistake that I made for years and learn to see that God is always doing wonderful things. May God grant you peace in your life today.



**Operation Christmas Child**

May ideas: small stuffed animals, dolls and hygiene products..

**Food Pantry is done for the Season!**

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped purchase items and hand out food. Many families were helped this year. Thank you for your support, see you in November!



**Crafting Bee Saturday May 9th**

Crafting will start at 2pm and continue until 6pm (or when people are "crafted out"- whichever comes first). Bring your paints, scrapbook paper, sewing, or whatever you like to do. Daycare provided. Contact Samantha Sprague @ 231-884-4458 with questions.



**Sidewalk Prophets: May 31st 7pm at the Cheboygan Opera House!**

The Evangelism Committee is excited to announce we are sponsoring an acoustic evening with Sidewalk Prophets, a contemporary Christian band from Nashville. This is a great opportunity for you to invite friends and family (especially teens). Sidewalk Prophets won the GMA's Dove Award for the "New Artist of the Year" in 2010. Some of their charted singles include "The Words I Would Say," "You Love Me Anyway," and "Live Like That."



Discounted tickets may be purchased through the church office at \$21 each. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Cooley.

**Spring is Here!**

Landscaping improvements will begin soon! We are looking for donations to help defer the cost. Please consider helping out. Thank you!

**Help Us Honor Our Veterans**

If you or a loved one has served and would like to be part of our slide show presentation, please send your info to the Church office. Please include a picture, branch of service, and years served. The slide show will be shown on Memorial Day and Veterans Day



**Baccalaureate Service Wed May 20th at 7pm**

COS & St. Anthony's will host Baccalaureate for the 2026 Mackinaw City Graduates on Wednesday, May 20th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to bring a plate of finger food or cookies, a reception will follow the service.

**Baccalaureate WORSHIP SERVICE**

SARM Youth Group will be hosting Coffee Hour on Mothers Day May 10th following the service.



**Pinecrest Fellowship** is the second 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.



**Want something mentioned in the newsletter?**  
Let the Church Office know! Thanks.  
(231) 436-8682 or [cotsoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:cotsoffice@yahoo.com)

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study**  
Michael Canales is leading a bible study on the book of Philippians Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Please see Michael if you have questions or would like to attend.



**Change to Make a Change**  
Kids helping Kids. We will be collecting your spare change as well as other donations to help support several causes this year including:

**Coats for Kids**  
**Operation Christmas Child "Shoebboxes"**  
**Purses with a Purpose**

We will have collection boxes for any items that are donated. Thanks for your support helping us to make a "Change" in our community.

# SARM happenings

## At Church of the Straits, We Love Kids!



**VBS Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday Sundaes June 21<sup>st</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>**

### Upcoming Events

**Cheer for the Home Team May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm Mackinaw City Baseball Fields**

**Baccalaureate May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

**May 24<sup>th</sup> Kid's Kick Off to Summer**

**May 31<sup>st</sup> Sidewalk Prophets Concert**

**June 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday Sundaes Sully's Sweet Shop**

**July 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday Sundaes**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> VBS True North**

**September 7<sup>th</sup> Bridge Walk and Breakfast at Audies**

**Shannon Cooley at Church of the Straits. Wed-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

## May 2026



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
	Erin Masters
Organist	Loretta Martinek
Treasurer	Joshua Kuehn
Financial Secretary	Laura Jackson
Clerk	Elizabeth Zabik
Office Manager	Joshua Kuehn

Office Phone: 231 436-8682  
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Church office – [cotsoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:cotsoffice@yahoo.com)

Church website – [www.churchofthestrains.com](http://www.churchofthestrains.com)

### OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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I write these articles for the newsletter typically 2-3 weeks before they are sent out to you. What I find interesting is that the subject matter of a particular article may have passed and moved on to something else of interest weeks later by the time it arrives in your mailbox.



A good example is today! I am writing this at the beginning of April, just before Easter. We are presently in an ice storm warning. The roads are slippery and the stairs outside of the church were glare ice before salt was applied. We got through a storm a couple weeks ago and we are all looking forward to Spring.

The wonderful thing about storms is that they end, they pass over eventually. They sometimes bring damage and devastation, but we end up recovering from them. While in a storm, tensions rise, fears percolate, and concern over what will happen distracts. Psalm 46:1-3 says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling." Exodus 14:14 also says "The Lord will fight for you, and you only have to be silent."

In the storm we are promised His help, and we are also promised his help and direction after the storm as 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived the things God has prepared for those who love him."

If you are reading this, you have gotten through our storms of March and April and are probably seeing signs of Spring. God got you through all of this. He continues to provide daily our needs. Let us praise Him for getting us through the storms of life and showing a future He has promised, a bright one indeed. One day we are heaven bound. Until then we only see a glimpse. Hang in there! God is good! Thank you Jesus!

Love you as always,

Pastor Dave

