



August



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Men's Group 9am
Communion		SCUBA! VBS Monday - Friday 9am-Noon			VBS Program Noon	9 Men's Group 9am
AA3pm Prayer Group 6pm						
3	4	5	Bible Study 6:30pm 6	7	8	9
SARM Sunday Sundae AA3pm Prayer Group 6pm	11	Pinecrest 2pm 12	Bible Study 6:30pm 13	Worship 10am 14	15	16 Men's Group 9am
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AA3pm Prayer Group 6pm		19	Bible Study 6:30pm 20	Men's Breakfast 8am Willing Workers 10am 21	22	23 Men's Group 9am The Chitans in Concert 8pm in the Park
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
AA3pm Prayer Group 6pm	25	BOG Mtg 7pm 26	Bible Study 6:30pm 27	 28	29	30 Men's Group 9am
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

BIRTHDAYS:

August 1	Rick Stone	August 15	Wayne Clemens
August 2	Kim Flemming	August 18	Lynn Bell
August 4	Danna Marvin	August 20	Bev Jones
August 9	Ed Palenkas	August 21	Wilhelmina Ranville
August 9	Donna Falor	August 21	Bernadette Ranville
August 10	Jon Cool	August 22	Nelson Thompson
August 12	Denny Qualey	August 22	Mike Krueger
August 14	Jennifer O'Brien	August 22	Lou Ann Sellers
August 14	Laura Jackson	August 26	Jerry Smith
August 15	Caitlin Ryan		

ANNIVERSARIES:

August 6	Ed & Sue O'Dwyer
August 8	Mike & Karen Krueger
August 8	Roger & Debbie Moore
August 17	Dick & Jane Spayde
August 18	Ken & Colette Bender
August 22	Hank & Nancy Hinsman
August 23	Mike & Connie Ware



Global Methodist and ECO Presbyterian
Church of the Straits



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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mackinaw City
Michigan 49701
Permit No. 1



Mike's Musings

I love to tell others about God because we have such a wonderful God. When I first came to know Christ, my life was a mess. I had no clue of how God works in our lives. I assumed that God looked down on everyday life and wasn't interested in our day-to-day life, but that couldn't be further from the truth. I came to understand this from two simple words, 'but God'. After a little study I found out that the phrase, 'but God' appears 48 times between the Old and New Testament.

So, what is so important about those two words? It goes to show God is in control of everything. If you're in a season where you are waiting on God, encourage your faith by reading through these, some of my favorite, 'but God' moments in Scripture. Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." This verse, spoken by Joseph to his brothers, highlights the theme of God's sovereignty and his ability to bring good out of evil. Joseph acknowledges his brothers' malicious intent in selling him into slavery but emphasizes that God's purpose was to use those circumstances to save many people during a famine. He can do the same thing for you and me.

One of my favorite verses Acts 13:28-30a "though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. BUT GOD raised him from the dead..."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Psalms 73:36 "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

1 Samuel 23:14 "David stayed in the desert strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands."

Jonah 2:6 "To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit."

So, when you get discouraged and can't see God working in your life; know that God has a 'but God' moment for you too. I think if I would have understood this concept that God cares so much for each of us that he is working out all things for our good, it would have been easier to get through. Trust God has things under control even when we can't see it.

Remember God loves you and so do I

Coffee Hour Signups 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.

Steel Drum and Gospel Concert Aug 23rd 8pm

The Church is sponsoring the Saturday, August 23rd "Music in Mackinaw" concert. For the third year in a row this will be the annual gospel concert. This year features The Chitans, an award-winning family (3 sisters, 2 brothers) from the Caribbean Island of Grenada. Their concert will be at Conkling Heritage Park at 8pm. Please come to the concert to hear their steel drum and Jesus Loving band!

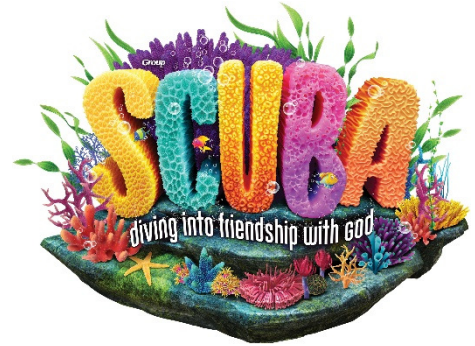


VBS is Almost Here!!

VBS is August 4th – 8th from 9am – noon with the Friday Parent Program from 12-12:30 pm.

Our theme this year will be **Scuba! Diving into friendship with God.** At Scuba kids discover how they can shine Jesus' love and hope in everyday life!

Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures,



collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus' light, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Scuba Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

VBS is open to age 4 – to those going into 7th grade. ****Pre-registration is encouraged!** Please call the office 231-436-8682.

Instead of asking for specific craft items or specific food items, we've found we can get exactly what is needed and avoid duplicates or missed items if we take donations.

Thank you in advance for supporting our community VBS program! If you have any questions, please contact Kim 248.345.6017. Thanks!

Service Time Change

We are currently in our summer worship schedule with service at 10am and Adult Bible Study at 9am. We will be returning to regular 10:30am Worship the Sunday after Labor Day.

Operation Christmas Child

We've been gathering items to fill boxes in November. These are just suggestions – look for items on sale or clearance! **August is school supplies month! Colored and regular pencils, sharpeners, crayons, note pads, rulers, scissors, glue sticks...the list is endless! And now is when school supplies are on sale 😊**



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

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 "Shoeboxes"
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!



Packing items for Purses with a Purpose



Sunday Sundae at Sully's Sweet Shop

Upcoming Events

Scuba! VBS Aug 4th-8th

Sunday Sundae Kilwins of MC: Aug 10th

Labor Day Bridge Walk and Breakfast at Audie's: Sept 1st

Shannon Cooley at Church of the Straits. Tues, Thurs, 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

August 2025



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	Donna Falor
Financial Secretary	Laura Jackson
Clerk	Laura Jackson
Administrative Asst.	Joshua Kuehn

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship 10:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

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



The summer is flying by! Why? Busyness is a contributing factor! Why do we want, sometimes even when we don't want, to rush through the seasons of life? When we are kids, we want to be teens. When we are teens, we can't wait to be adults. When we are in the middle of our career we are shooting for retirement. When we are retired, we look back and say I wish for an earlier phase in our lives (I do really pray that you enjoy the golden years).

Why can't we enjoy the present and let life happen at its own pace without forcing it? Psalm 118:24 says, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." When I get up in the morning I ought to thank the Lord for the day that will unfold. In that day, I can worship and give praise to him. I can start the day on a positive note because He is with me, He sustains me, He loves me! I'm glad!

Psalm 16:11 says, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." There is a sense in the verse that we can slow down because God is making known my path and all I need to do is follow his lead. No rush, just trust. I am present with Him, and He is present with me. That's all I need.

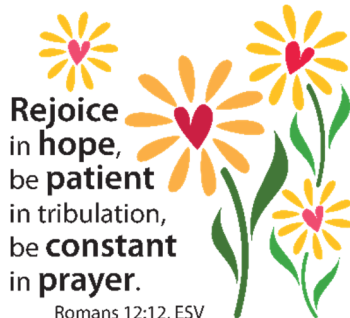
Romans 15:13 states, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Hope is a necessary part of life. If we lose hope, we lose our purpose for life. God is the God of hope. We abound in hope because we believe in the hope giver. We have reason for joy and peace because we have hope. No rush, just hope!

Finally, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 declares, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." How do we live with peace and tranquility in our hearts? I believe the answer is in these verses. Rejoicing and praising God lifts us from the busyness and worries of life and allows us to enjoy the now. Praying without ceasing is enjoying God every moment in conversation and just being present. Giving thanks in all circumstances is recognizing God has a plan to take us through everything, good and bad! That slows life down so we can sigh a heavenly sigh!

Slow down and enjoy God! Don't rush, because we miss what God wants us to see.

Love you,

Pastor Dave



Rejoice
in hope,
be patient
in tribulation,
be constant
in prayer.

Romans 12:12, ESV