

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						Men's Group 9am
					1	2
Communion AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm		Hand Bells 12:30pm Journaling 2pm Bible Study 6:30pm			Men's Group 9am Crafting Bee 2pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm	Pinecrest 2pm	Food Pantry 10am Hand Bells 12:30pm Journaling 2pm Bible Study 6:30pm	Men's Brkfst 8am Helping Hands 10am		Men's Group 9am
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm	BOG 7pm	Hand Bells 12:30pm Journaling 2pm Bible Study 6:30pm			Men's Group 9am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Annual Cong. Meeting AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm		Food Pantry 10am Hand Bells 12:30pm Journaling 2pm Bible Study 6:30pm			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

BIRTHDAYS:

Jan 2	Marita Archer	Jan 16	Conner Robertson
Jan 2	George Ranville	Jan 18	Ed O'Dwyer
Jan 5	Nathan Bennett	Jan 18	Jourdan Watson
Jan 6	June Bailey	Jan 18	Darlene Krueger
Jan 6	Bob Benefiel	Jan 18	Rod Westhuis
Jan 8	Brent Paape	Jan 22	Kristi Laninga
Jan 8	Aiden Walugembe	Jan 22	Jamey Jutson
Jan 13	Laura Janeczek	Jan 24	Jeff Hingston
Jan 13	Jan Hawver	Jan 25	Dan Durant
Jan 15	Dorothy Darrow	Jan 28	Genevieve Ranville
Jan 16	Justin Barber	Jan 31	Elizabeth Zabik



ANNIVERSARIES:

Jan 1 Tim & Elizabeth Zabik

Global Methodist and ECO Presbyterian Church of the Straits



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

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Mike's Musings

Donna and I recently attended a dear friend's celebration of life, and it was a testament to a life well lived. So many people came and spoke of our friend in kind words. It made me think of how we should live out our walk.

Proverbs 3:1-7 gives us good instructions on how to do this, so I will share this for my New Year's message to you. "My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil."

If you do anything in this New Year do these things. A walk like this will have honored God and man alike. We often times make promises or resolutions at this time, listen to what God says for us to do, and I believe you will have done well. May this New Year be lived for Christ!



Operation Christmas Child

January ideas – Hats, gloves, scarves. If you are a knitter or crocheter – put those scraps of yarn to good use!

Food Pantry Jan 14th and 28th at 10am to noon

Help is needed to support healthy nutrition for those in need. We will need donations and help to distribute food on the day of the events. Please plan to help out if you are able. Thanks!



Coffee Hour and Liturgist Sign Ups

Please see the various sign-up sheets by the entrance to the church. We always need help with Coffee Hour and for readers on Sunday.



Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25th after the service. Please plan to attend to support our leadership and learn what 2026 has in store for Church of the Straits.

A Crafting Bee will be held the 2nd Saturday of each month starting January 10th. 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 will be provided, and I encourage you to bring a finger snack or non-alcoholic beverage to share. Contact Samantha Sprague @ 231-884-4458 with questions.



Christmas "Wrap Session" Thank You!

Thanks to all who attended and helped out! Will schedule for Dec 12th Next year!



Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd – **That's a relationship**
 I shall not want – **That's supply**
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures – **That's rest**
 He leadeth me beside the still waters – **That's refreshment**
 He restoreth my soul – **That's healing**
 He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness – **That's guidance**
 For His name's sake – **That's purpose**
 Yea, though I walk through the alley of the shadow of death – **That's testing**
 I will fear no evil – **That's protection**
 For Thou art with me – **That's Faithfulness**
 Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me – **That's discipline**
 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies – **That's hope**
 Thou anointest my head with oil – **That's consecration**
 My cup runneth over – **That's abundance**
 Surely good ness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life – **That's a blessing**
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord – **That's Security**
 Forver – **That's eternity**

Face it, God Loves You!

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.



Save the Date: May 31st 2026
Church of the Straits is sponsoring a concert event at the Cheboygan Opera House!



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:

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Continues in January. 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.

SARM happenings

At Church of the Straits, We Love Kids!



Decorating the Church and Christmas Tress for the Village



Meeting Santa

Dinner and Movie

Upcoming Events
Jan dates TBA
Easter Bunny Lunch March 21st

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

January 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.

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Minister
Youth Director
Head Ushers

Organist
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Clerk
Administrative Asst.

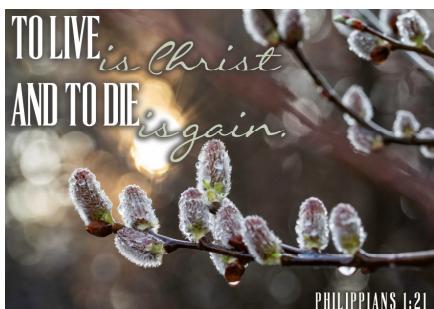
Pastor David Wallis
Shannon Cooley
Todd Kohs
Erin Masters
Loretta Martinek
Donna Falor
Laura Jackson
Laura Jackson
Joshua Kuehn

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.churchofthestraits.com

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This New Year is different for me than any other one in the sense that now I am a Senior Citizen by every definition. I am 65 and that means I don't have to parse whether I am allowed the discount because I am only 62 or 55 or whatever it is set at. Medicare is here so I might as well get excited about it.

Some people dread getting older. Some people don't want to let people know they are seniors, but I gladly share it when it benefits my wallet. Ha! Ha! There is another reason I don't mind people knowing my age. I have had the privilege of living this long and perhaps longer and I am thankful to God. I have relatively good health (some aches and pains) so again I am grateful.

We don't know the number of our days, but I know the One who has numbered my days and I trust in Him, my Heavenly Father. I want to have good opportunities with the days left in my life. Ephesians 5:15-16 says, "Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." The last phrase in that text might be bothersome to some, but God works abundantly in an evil world too.

Paul says in Philippians 1:19b and following, "Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me."

Now I don't plan on bad things like jail or horrible health happening to me but if it does, I can still look forward to serving Him in this life and in the life to come. So old age doesn't have to be a bad thing, it can be a wonderful thing. Forward march is what I am going to do and let God lead the way. They may not be the golden years but with Christ by my side that is golden.

Love ya,

Pastor Dave

