

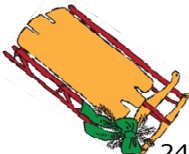


JANUARY

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

BIRTHDAYS:

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



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

I've recently returned from vacation in Florida and a message I heard there really spoke to me. The message was entitled, "Partakers of His Holiness." I think this is a perfect message to start off the New Year. Last year I led a class covering the book of Romans, and we learned that Holiness comes from God, and we inherit it when we accept Jesus as our savior. If I asked you, are you Holy? What would you say in response?

Leviticus 11:44 says, "For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy." So, this scripture instructs us to consecrate ourselves and be holy. Oxford's dictionary defines consecrate as sacred; dedicated formally to a religious or divine purpose. That is what God wants from us. We of course can't do this alone. We must trust that the Holy Spirit will help us in doing this. 1 Peter 1:13-16 helps us understand how to walk this out, "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Here is a list of six things we can do to walk in God's holiness:

1. Honor God in all you do.
2. Show love.
3. Honor parents.
4. Serve others.
5. Abstain from sin.
6. Show God in your actions with others.



The word "holy" appears in the Bible over 600 times, and when combined with "holiness", the total is over 900. The word "holy" is used to describe something or someone that is set apart from all else. The Hebrew word for "holy" literally means "separate" or "set apart". So, if you truly want to do what God has commanded us to do study what God's word says about being holy.

We can't be holy separate from God. We must rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us along with God's word that can help us see the way. So, if I ask you, "Are you holy?" I hope you can answer with God and through God you are holy. Love you all and have a blessed New Year!



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.

Food Pantry Jan 1, 15, and 29th

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!



Operation Christmas Child

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

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th after the service. Please plan to attend to support our leadership and learn what 2025 has in store for Church of the Straits.



Coffee Hour Help 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.

New Year's blessing

The eighth day of Christmas,
the eighth day of Creation,
the Next New Day,
New Year's Day.

May every day be a New Year's Day for you:
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,
to start again.
May you take courage to begin anew. ...

As you let go of the year past,
may you ... in your free fall find yourself held
by an eternal love that has come ages to be with you,
and will carry you all the way to the end. ...

Every day may you trust your belovedness,
your freedom from having to prove yourself,
and receive the grace that is given to you.

May this year be a year of grace and hope.
—Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net



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

Matthew 18:20 Meetup Class
Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. It's all about Jesus! Please plan to attend!

SARM happenings

At Church of the Straits, We Love Kids!



Decorating a Tree at the Rec Center



Decorating the Church

Upcoming Events

Cheer for the Home Team: January Date TBA
Creation Station: Saturday Jan 25th meeting in Cheboygan at 11am
Bowling and Pizza Party Feb 23rd at Sparetime Lanes in Cheboygan 1pm

Shannon Cooley at Church of the Straits. Wednesday through 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 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.

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



I have known for a long time the importance of having tires with good tread on our vehicles. What I have also known for a long time is that I like to wear my tires out to get the most use out of them. I do the same with toothpaste. I squeeze and squeeze until there is absolutely no toothpaste left in the tube.

Getting back to the tires. I have to balance economics with safety when determining when to replace tires. I was proud of myself when I got 82,000 miles on my first set of tires on my truck. I replaced them because they looked more like Indy tires than all season tires. I was also squawking tires without much effort, so I knew I needed more grip for winter. I also replaced the tires on our SUV but that was more because the woman who drives it more often is my wife, and I want to keep her safe.

My resistance to replace tires was mostly cost and the desire to get the most out of them, but isn't there a similarity with our resistance to heeding God's direction in our lives because we don't want to give up too much, cost being a factor? We say to God, "we're doing just fine" and don't need to change, when God is saying I have something better for you, but it may come at a cost.

1 Cor. 6:19-20 says "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." When I thought about tires for my SUV I thought about my wife, precious as she is. When I think about my body, myself, my soul, my being, I should remember I am not my own but bought by the precious blood of Christ, so I want to give of my best all the time, for his glory and ultimately for my benefit as well.

It's time for us to give our best for Him and not continue with the same old excuses and worn-out comfortable habits of life. He wants something better for us just like I needed new tires for my wife and me. Let's start the New Year with the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5).

Love You,

Pastor Dave

