



# August



| SUNDAY                                                                            | MONDAY                                                                                   | TUESDAY                                    | WEDNESDAY                                 | THURSDAY                                                                                                         | FRIDAY             | SATURDAY                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |                                                                                          |                                            |                                           |                                                                                                                  |                    | Men's Group 9am<br>1                                                                          |
| Communion                                                                         |         | True North VBS<br>Monday - Friday 9am-Noon |                                           |                                                                                                                  |                    | Men's Group 9am                                                                               |
| AA3pm<br>Prayer Group 6pm<br>2                                                    |                                                                                          | 3                                          | 4                                         | Bible Study 6:30pm 5                                                                                             | 6                  | <br>7<br>8 |
| AA3pm<br>Prayer Group 6pm<br>9                                                    | 10                                                                                       | 11                                         | Pinecrest 2pm<br>Bible Study 6:30pm<br>12 | 13                                                                                                               | Worship 10am<br>14 | Men's Group 9am<br>15                                                                         |
| AA3pm<br>Prayer Group 6pm<br>16                                                   | <br>17 | 18                                         | 19                                        | Bible Study 6:30pm<br>Men's Breakfast 8am<br>20                                                                  | 21                 | Men's Group 9am<br>22                                                                         |
| AA3pm<br>Prayer Gro up 6pm<br>23/30                                               | 24/31                                                                                    | 25                                         | 26                                        | Bible Study 6:30pm<br><br>27 | 28                 | Men's Group 9am<br>29                                                                         |

BIRTHDAYS:

|           |                  |           |                     |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| August 1  | Rick Stone       | August 17 | Braedon Langhorne   |
| August 2  | Kim Flemming     | August 18 | Lynn Bell           |
| August 4  | Danna Marvin     | August 20 | Bev Jones           |
| August 9  | Donna Falor      | August 21 | Wilhelmina Ranville |
| August 10 | Jon Cool         | August 21 | Bernadette Ranville |
| August 12 | Denny Qualey     | August 22 | Nelson Thompson     |
| August 14 | Jennifer O'Brien | August 22 | Mike Krueger        |
| August 14 | Laura Jackson    | August 22 | Lou Ann Sellers     |
| August 15 | Caitlin Ryan     | August 26 | Jerry Smith         |
| August 15 | Wayne Clemens    |           |                     |

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

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Mike's Musings

I've noticed lately that many people have lost hope in God. I don't think losing hope in God is a sudden choice; it is often a gradual process triggered by deep pain, unanswered prayers, or seasons of silence or Spiritual fatigue.

I know from my own life that we can just become overwhelmed with life's problems, but there is hope in building your hope back. In **Hebrews 6:19** it says, **"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,"**

Biblical hope means relying on the Lord's promises rather than your own circumstances or abilities. **Isaiah 40:31** says, **"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."** **Jeremiah 29:11** promises this, **"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."** This alone can help us to know God is for us.

So, we must have faith in God to have hope. **Hebrews 11:1** says, **"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."** If you know the Lord, you must plant your faith in Him even when you can't see Him working. I can't help but mention **Lamentations 3:24** which says, **"I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.'"**

It isn't easy sometimes to wait on the Lord, but waiting doesn't mean you stop all you are doing. Keep reading God's word for instruction, and for the promises that He will never forsake us. God is in control and wants the best for us. If you don't have the faith; tell another believer and borrow some from them. God loves you, now you have to believe what God says, and know He is for you. I challenge you if you have lost your hope in God look back in your life and remember all the things you have asked God for and you received them. Know that He is on your side and will give you what you need in His time.



### Operation Christmas Child

We're gathering items to fill boxes in November. These are just suggestions – look for items on sale or clearance!

**Suggestions: 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 😊** We can always use: activity pads, note pads, coloring books and items for older boys.



### 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.



**VBS is August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>** from 9am – Noon with the Friday Parent Program from 12-12:30 pm.

At True North, kids discover that they can trust Jesus in a wild world! True North is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Hands-on science experiments, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and sturdy shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings®. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

**Please Pre Register: links on our website or Facebook page. Churchofthestrains.com**

**Michael & Donna Canales and others renewed their wedding vows last month. Happy Anniversary!**



**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)

### **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

### **Wednesday Evening Bible Study**

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

**Service Time Change:** We are back at 10:30am on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, the Sunda after Labor Day.

# SARM happenings

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



**Sunday Sundae!**



**Summer Fun!**



### **Upcoming Events**

**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

August 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           |
|                     | Spencer Masters     |
| Organist            | Loretta Martinek    |
| Treasurer           | Joshua Kuehn        |
| Financial Secretary | Laura Jackson       |
| Clerk               | Elizabeth Zabik     |
| Office Manager      | 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 8am-2pm

**Pastor's cell: 906 282-7409**

E-mail – Pastor – [davidloveslisa87@gmail.com](mailto:davidloveslisa87@gmail.com)

Church office – [cotsoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:cotsoffice@yahoo.com)

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

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My grandson Crew loves to identify what brand of vehicle someone is driving, especially when it comes to trucks. He is getting really good at it, even when seeing a truck from quite a distance he is usually right. He has a lot of matchbox vehicles that he does the same thing with and it's quite impressive for a 4-yr old.

It got me to thinking! How easy is it to identify a Christian? Sometimes we think someone is a Christian by what they wear, like a tee shirt with a Christian slogan, or a cross necklace, or even a bumper sticker on their car. I've got a side story about that one. I was behind a vehicle in the Soo (I think that's where I was) and I saw a bumper sticker that said, "Honk if you love Jesus!" I love Jesus so I honked and when I did that the driver (a young teenager) gave me the not so nice "bird". I don't think he was happy with me, and I assume he may have been driving his parents' vehicle and didn't know what I was doing. That is the assumption I am sticking with.

Having a Jesus bumper sticker, a cross on the neck, or a Christian tee shirt doesn't make one a Christian. Having Jesus in our heart does! I wear tee shirts like that, and I hope and pray that people don't just read the shirt but read my actions to see what that shirt represents (most of the time). I fall short on occasion and lament the lost opportunities to show Christ.

Here is how we can show others what a Christian looks like! "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12). "Love your enemies!" (Mt. 5:44). "As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Col. 3:13). "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you" (James 4:10).

This way of living is not possible without a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. How do we forgive unless we know God's forgiveness? How do we love our enemy unless we know that while we were sinners Christ died for us? How do we walk humble while people walk all over us, unless we know Christ suffered the humiliation of the cross to save us from our sin?

Yes, as the song goes, "they will know we are Christians by our love!" Let's be witnesses to who God is and what His Son did for us! And when we slip and fall let us be witnesses to God' mercy and grace and forgiveness and let others know it's available for them as well.

I want others to see Christ in me! Do you?

*Pastor Dave*

Pastor Dave

