








# April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Bible Jo urnalng 2pm Bible Study 6:30 pm 1	Men's Brkfst 8am 2	Good Friday @St Anthony's 1pm Church open 12-5pm 3	Men's Group 9am 4
Easter Sunday Breakfast 9 am Service 10:30 am AA 3pm 5	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm 6		Food Pantry 10am Bible Jo urnalng 2pm Bible Study 6:30 pm 8		 10	Men's Group 9am Crafting Bee 2pm 11
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm 12	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm 13	Pinecrest 2pm 14	Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Jo urnalng 2pm 15	Men's Brkfst 8am Helping Hands 10am 16		Men's Group 9am 18
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm 19	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm 20	 21	Food Pantry 10am Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Jo urnalng 2pm Bible Study 6:30 pm 22	 23		Men's Group 9am 25
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm 26	Wmn's Bible Study 2pm 27	BOG Mtg 7pm 28	Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Jo urnalng 2pm Bible Study 6:30 pm 29		 30	<b>APRIL</b> <i>Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</i>

**BIRTHDAYS:**

April 1	Katy Stone	April 22	Roxana Strieby
April 4	Rob Strittmatter	April 25	Lisa Wallis
April 4	Sylvia Truman	April 26	Joan McGowan-Nash
April 9	Jeanne Ryan	April 28	Deb Downing
April 10	Matthew Wallis	April 28	Donna Ptashnik
April 13	Ken Laninga	<b>ANNIVERSARIES:</b>	
April 19	Remi Ranville	April 19	George & Gail Ranville



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



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

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Mike's Musings

What is a Christian's life supposed to look like? I have often asked that question to myself. I don't think it looks like I'm better than you, or I sin less than you. I have to look to what Jesus said. **John 12:24-25** "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel

**of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."**

So, what is that telling us? First, Jesus had to die to offer the perfect sacrifice for our salvation. So, one grain of wheat dying (Jesus) produced all those that believed in His resurrection. Then Jesus asks us to give up our lives in this world. Not a literal death, but a spiritual death, the death to self.

Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was in **Matthew 22:37-40**, **Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."**

To love God, and to love your neighbor we must first die to self. This is the hard part that we work out and show others how we are changed. We can't fake being changed, we have to do it. I know I can't do this on my own. I need God to guide me with His word, with His spirit, and with His leading.

**Mark 8:34-35** **Jesus says, Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.**

Being a Christian isn't easy, I will admit that, but it is easier when we take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. Are you willing to die to self?



### Operation Christmas Child

Ideas for March are socks, underwear, mittens & hats this month.

### Food Pantry April 8<sup>th</sup> and Last date for the season April 22<sup>nd</sup> 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!



### Crafting Bee Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>

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 31<sup>st</sup> 2026 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.

### Thank You Donna Falor for your service!

Donna Falor will be stepping down from her role as Church Treasurer. We thank her for her many hours of service and wish her well in her future endeavors!

### Think Spring!

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

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:4-5, NRSV).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?



**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 "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.

**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.



# SARM happenings

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



**Kid's Spring Blast Party!**



**Upcoming Events**

**April Events: TBA**

**Sunday School Spring Break Starts March 29<sup>th</sup> with classes resuming April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

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

**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

## April 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

### OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

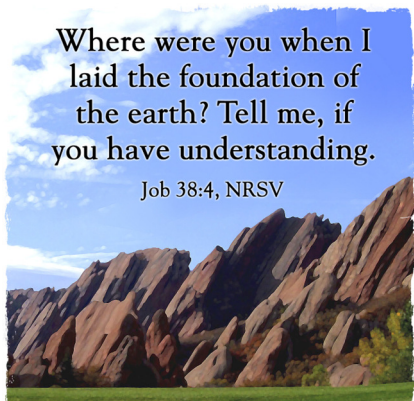
Office Phone: 231 436-8682  
Office Hours – M-Th 8am-2pm  
**Pastor's cell: 906 282-7409**

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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Where were you when I  
laid the foundation of  
the earth? Tell me, if  
you have understanding.

Job 38:4, NRSV



I'm actually writing this on March 2nd having no clue what my life, the weather, or the world will be like when this arrives in your mailbox at the end of this month. All I know is that there is a lot of snow on the ground, life is good right now and there is a war going on against the regime in Iran.

I am confident that God will take care of the weather between now and then, perhaps even giving us a small glimpse of Spring. I am equally confident that God will take care of me between now and then, and yes I am also confident that God has the whole world in His hands and His purposes will be fulfilled, whatever that may be.

My confidence is not in weather forecasters, nor is it solely in medical doctors or world leaders. My confidence is in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Because of that, I need not fret what the future holds because I know who holds the future.

I do listen to weather forecasters and heed their advice sometimes. I also try to do what doctors say to take care of myself. I also pray for our President and all those in power to make wise decisions that reflect what God wants, but my trust is ultimately in God.

God counseled Job when he questioned what God was doing in the latter part of the book of Job (Read it for yourself, chapter 38 to the end). Job had to be reminded just like his friends that he couldn't comprehend what was going on in the heavenly realm and even what purposes of God were being laid out on earth at any one time. The Lord began with 38:2, "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know: Who stretched a measuring line across it: On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone –while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?"

You and I can't even begin to understand the whole picture of our life, let alone the big picture of what is going on in our world. What I do know is that on Good Friday and Easter, that God exposed us to the greatest gift ever given that gives us everything we need for eternity. Jesus died and atoned for my sin, and He rose again that I and you could have forgiveness of sin and life eternal.

So, whatever happens from this point forward, God is with us! We need not be afraid. In fact, we can move forward in confidence that "God's Got It" Sound familiar?

Love you,

Pastor Dave



IN GOD  
I TRUST;  
I shall not  
be afraid.

Psalm 56:4, ESV