



AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Men's Brkfst 8am		
	Wmn's Bible Study 3pm	Pinecrest 2pm	Bible Journaling 2pm			Men's Group 9am
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Wmn's Bible Study 3pm				VBS Program Noon	
	 SonRise National Park VBS Monday - Friday 9am-Noon 					Men's Group 9am
AA 3pm Prayer Group	7	8	9	10	11	12
SARM Sunday	Wmn's Bible Study 3pm					Men's Group 9am
AA 3pm Prayer Group			Bible Journaling 2pm	Willing Workers 10am		
				Directory Photos Being Taken - Be included !!!		
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Wmn's Bible Study 3pm	BOG Mtg 7pm				Men's Group 9am
AA 3pm Prayer Group			Bible Journaling 2pm			
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Wmn's Bible Study 3pm		Bible Journaling 2pm			
AA 3pm Prayer Group						
	28	29	30	31		

BIRTHDAYS:

August 1	June Toth	August 18	Lynn Bell
August 4	Danna Marvin	August 18	Katie Janeczek
August 9	Ed Palenkas	August 21	Wilhelmina Ranville
August 10	Jon Cool	August 22	Bernadette Ranville
August 12	Denny Qualey	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	August 31	Andrea Sarto

ANNIVERSARIES:

August 2	Bill & Donna Ptashnik
August 3	Terry & Jennifer Davis
August 6	Ed & Sue O'Dwyer
August 8	Mike & Karen Krueger
August 8	Roger & Debbie Moore
August 17	Dick & Jane Spayde
August 22	Hank & Nancy Hinsman
August 23	Mike & Connie Ware
August 28	Cless & Judy Hurlburt

United Methodist and ECO Presbyterian
The Church of the Straits



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

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Mike's Musings

I've been thinking about the giants we sometimes have to fight. You know those things that seem so insurmountable that we don't know how we can even face the problem. It could be our health (fiscal or mental), some financial matters, for some it

could be loneliness. For others it is family issues like divorce or even death of a family member and there are those who have lost their job. Whatever your giant is, God is there for you. The problem is many of us seek out other people or advice before we ever go to God.

I assume you all have heard the story of David and Goliath. If you haven't I suggest you read the account in 1 Samuel chapter 17. The story goes like this, David was sent to take food to his brothers in Saul's war camp against the Philistines. When he arrived he heard Goliath taunting the whole Israelite army. This made David mad. He asked why no one was going out to take this giant down. His question got the attention of King Saul and David was called to come before the King. Saul explained that if they lose a battle with this giant they will be made slaves. David tells the King that he (David) had fought a lion and a bear to protect his sheep and if God could protect him doing that, for sure God will protect him to fight this giant. Most know the ending of the story. David did kill the giant and the Philistine army ran away in fear.

I'm here to tell you that God wants to do the same thing for us. In Jeremiah 29:11 it says, "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." God wants the best for us, but we live in a fallen world. Bad things happen. I can say with 100% truth that God has brought me through every problem I have ever faced. He continues to lift me up daily. What is it you are facing today? Can you be like David and know that God has protected him in the past so who's to say he won't protect you again.

When we have a relationship with our Father in heaven we count on him to watch out for us. David remembered how God had protected him in his past. You need to do the same and know God has your back. Don't be afraid of the giant you face. Know God has already done the work because he has a plan for you.

Operation Christmas Child

We've 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 😊

Also, we can always use: activity pads, note pads, coloring books and items for older boys – small craft hammers, measuring tapes, screw drivers, etc..

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE:

Appointments are being scheduled now for:

Thur., Aug. 18 – 2 – 8:30 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 19 – 2 – 8:30 p.m.

Sat., Aug. 20 – 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Please do your part and schedule an appointment! We want as complete a directory as possible, one we can all be proud of AND one that will help you connect with others in our church family. Sample directories can be seen every Sunday morning at the appointment table. Our directory this year will be in print AND on an app for your cell phones. Please help us get to 100% participation! If you have any questions, please call Sue O'Dwyer at 404-384-9940.

Church Photo Directory



In memory of John Schroeder

Sunday, August 28th

3:00 pm by the pool

The Shores of Mackinaw Condo Complex

20522 Northern Lights Lane

Mackinaw City

In the event of rain, the celebration will be held at

The Church of the Straits



God Among the Rubble

The nonprofit World Central Kitchen provides fresh meals for communities in need following natural disasters or during humanitarian crises. After Russia

invaded Ukraine in February 2022, WCK fed millions of people in the country and refugees at border crossings.

When I feel discouraged by tragic news and ask where God is, I'm reminded that God shows up precisely in people such as the WCK teams. They are God's hands serving healthy food to people fleeing home. They are God's heart and arms welcoming those in need to be nourished.

Often in the Bible God shows up around meals: Sarah and Abraham host the Lord in the form of three visitors; God rains manna from heaven for the Israelites; an angel provides food for exhausted Elijah; Jesus eats with "tax collectors and sinners" and feeds crowds with a few loaves and fish. Supremely, Jesus gives to all the meal of Holy Communion, the bread and wine that are his very body and blood.

In our broken world, God is among the rubble, among the helpers, among us.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



VBS is Coming!! We're taking to the National Parks this year and will discover that Jesus provides what we need in every challenge of life! There will be inspiring music, fun games, awesome crafts, incredible snacks and super Bible Stories!

VBS is open to kids age

4 thru those going into 7th grade. VBS runs Monday, August 8 – Friday August 12, 9am to noon. Please plan to be here at 8:30am on Monday for registration. If you need more information, contact Ranger Judy in the office at 231.436.8682

Don't forget the parent program on Friday at noon! It's not only for parents, but anyone! The kids enjoy performing what they've learned all week!

And a HUGE thank you to all who donated on VBS Sunday!



New Seat, New Perspective!

In older sitcoms, family members, especially parents, each had their own chair in the living room. No one else sat there. If its "owner" wasn't present, the on-set chair

remained empty. Church can be like that too, with people claiming the same seat week after week. Our view of the service and of fellow worshipers is familiar and comfortable.

Recently, our family was "bumped" back a bit, which felt surprisingly different at first. But we interacted just the same with the service. As a bonus, I talked with different people. And after church we stayed to visit a bit longer.

I'm glad church seats don't have nameplates. And I'm thankful that God nudges me out of my comfort zone from time to time, giving me a new perspective.

~Janna Firestone

Sweet Summertime SARM Happenings

SARM has had a wonderful summer so far. Looking back - Sundae Sunday was a sweet success, miniature golf had some healthy competition, and Big Ticket Festival in Gaylord Michigan was a hit! Wonderful bands, great Christian fellowship and a picnic lunch on Saturday at Big Ticket Festival - thank you to all who participated and donated food and needs for the SARM picnic ❤️.

Looking forward to August - Sundae Sunday on the 14th, Vacation Bible School August 8-12 and SARM will be participating in the Mackinaw Bridge Walk on Labor Day.

Ongoing - "Chang 4 a Change" is collecting items and money donations for The AA Crisis Pregnancy Center in Cheboygan. Any questions about any of the above activities, please contact Youth Director Shannon Cooley Wednesday through Friday at the Church of the Straits 231.436.8682.

Much love and God bless,
Shannon Cooley
Youth Director



Straits Talk Newsletter

August 2022



The Mission of The 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

****Summer Worship at 10:00 a.m.**

Sunday June 26 – August 28

Minister	Pastor David Wallis
Youth Director	Shannon Cooley
Head Ushers	Todd Kohs and Carl Strieby
Organist	Loretta Martinek
Treasurer	Donna Falor
Financial Secretary	Laura Jackson
Clerk	Laura Jackson
Secretary	Judy Churchill

Office Phone: 231 436-8682

Office Hours – M-Th 9am-2pm

Pastor's cell: 906 282-7409 *no longer a parsonage phone

E-mail – Pastor – davidloveslisa87@gmail.com

Church office – cotsoffice@yahoo.com

Church website – www.thechurchofthestraits.com



It seems every time I want to do some kind of project at home, I end up hurting myself. Whether its banging my finger (which I'm dealing with a new finger nail coming in), cutting my hand, banging my shin, tweaking my back, or doing any number of things, I am indeed an expert at finding new ways to draw blood or whatever. My wife knows I will be heading for the cupboard to find a band-aid soon, when embarking on a new fix it job.

That being said, I enjoy working on things and feeling the satisfaction of accomplishment after I am done. My projects don't end in perfection but they are done with the intention of

doing the best I can. Even though I may suffer during my endeavors, it's worth it to me. It better be, because I have inherited some of my dad's woodworking tools to play with in the future when I have the time. O boy here comes more blood! Ha! Ha!

As always, when I write these little thoughts down for the newsletter, I like to make some kind of life application with it. So here it goes! The word sacrifice is used often in the bible. Many times, with Christians its used to indicate that doing the right thing can mean discomfort and pain. We don't go into something with the intention of suffering, we go into it with the intention of doing the right thing and suffering may happen. Hebrews 13:15-16 says, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not neglect to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Romans 12:1 also states "Therefore I urge you, brothers, on account of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." So as we live to the glory of God we sometimes come upon pain and suffering just like I do when I am doing a household job. But in both cases, and especially in the former, the reward of doing the right thing is definitely worth it.

Jesus thought it was definitely worth it when "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him will have everlasting life." (John 3:16) If it's worth it for him then it's worth it for me.

Love ya'll,

Pastor Dave