
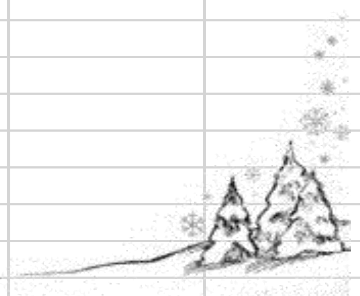


January 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Men's Group 9am
					1	2
Communion AA 3pm			Food Pantry 10am	Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Youth Ministry Sunday AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Disciple IV 6pm	Wms Bible Study 3pm					Men's Group 9am
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Disciple IV 6pm	Wms Bible Study 3pm	BOG 7pm	Food Pantry 10am	Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Annual Cong. Meeting AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Disciple IV 6pm	Wms Bible Study 3pm					Men's Group 9am
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Disciple IV 6pm	BIRTHDAYS:				ANNIVERSARIES:	
31	Jan 2	Marita Archer	Jan 18	Jourdan Watson	Jan 1	Tim & Elizabeth Zabik
	Jan 5	Nathan Bennett	Jan 18	Darlene Krueger		
	Jan 6	Bob Benefiel	Jan 19	Rob Most		
	Jan 7	Brooke Schaefer	Jan 22	Kristi Laninga		
	Jan 8	Aiden Walugembe	Jan 22	Jamey Jutson		
	Jan 10	Katie Darrow	Jan 23	Lee Hall		
	Jan 13	Laura Janeczek	Jan 24	Jeff Hingston		
	Jan 13	Jan Hawver	Jan 25	Dan Durant		
	Jan 16	Janet Olt	Jan 25	Kellie Downing		
	Jan 16	Justin Barber	Jan 31	Elizabeth Zabik		



United Methodist and ECO Presbyterian
The Church of the Straits






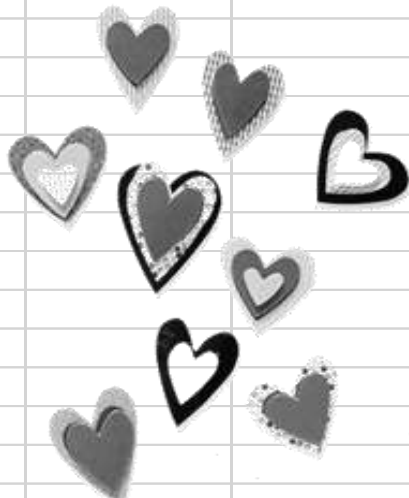
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FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Missions Mtg 1pm Wms Bible Sturdy 3pm	PPRC 6:30pm	Food Pantry 10-11am	Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Communion AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Disciple IV 6pm	Wms Bible Sturdy 3pm					Men's Group 9am
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Youth Ministry Sunday AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Disciple IV 6pm	Wms Bible Sturdy 3pm 		Food Pantry 10-11am Ash Wednesday 	Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am
♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Disciple IV 6pm	Wms Bible Sturdy 3pm	BOG Mtg 7pm				Men's Group 9am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Disciple IV 6pm						
28						

BIRTHDAYS:

Feb 2	Royce Ryan	Feb 24	Bill Marvin
Feb 3	Jo Ann Rinehart	Feb 26	Ken McGuire
Feb 5	Eliana Walugembe	Feb 27	Burkleigh Wallis
Feb 5	Donna Canales	Feb 27	Cles Hurlburt
Feb 8	Connie Ware		
Feb 10	Mary Marquis	ANNIVERSARIES:	
Feb 13	Merritt Cole	Feb 2	Scott & Cheryl Newman
Feb 13	Marilyn Imeson	Feb 5	Greg & Kathy Pietrowski
Feb 16	Megan Wallis	Feb 15	Bud & Katy Stone
Feb 17	Wendy Orsini	Feb 23	Ron & Ann McClue
Feb 24	Julia Short	Feb 27	Carl & Roxie Strieby
Feb 24	Samantha Reed	Feb 29	Charlie & Kathy Heilman



Need transportation to the doctor or the store? Need someone to pick-up prescriptions or groceries? How about minor handyman repairs? Call us, **Ron Illikman 231-445-8482** or **Clif**

Kennedy 231-436-5851.

We are members of St Anthony's Catholic Church providing a Christian missionary service. So, if you have a need or just need a little assistance during these difficult times and you live in the Mackinaw/ Carp Lake area, call and we will be happy to meet your needs.

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future."

~ Paul Boese



The Magi's Story – and ours

The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself....On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the

Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.

We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

~Travis Cunningham, rvcreources.net



Mike's Musings

I pray all of you had a wonderful Christmas. I think we need to move forward to the New Year with new thinking. We need to keep our trust in God first and foremost. I can't tell you how to live your life but I can tell you what God says in

His word.

I used to think I was in control of my life. That I could do anything if I just put my mind to it. One day my world came crashing down, and there I was in a mess. When it happened I blamed God for what was going on in my life. Later I blamed myself, but it was then I realized that I had no real control over anything. I read something the other day that illustrated this point well for me and I would like to share that with you. It went like this, you are on a train and train goes into a tunnel. It can look dark and scary; you are not sure you will come out of it. Much like 2020. You could be scared or anxious, but no matter how afraid you are, you can't make that train get through that tunnel any faster. But, you could trust the engineer of the train. Trust that they will get you through. Well, God is the engineer in our lives. In Psalms 46:10 it says, "Be still and know that I am God." God wants the best for us. He knew we were going to go through dark places in our lives, but he is in control of it. He allows us to get upset and even panic, but in the end he is there with us through it all.

I want you to remember He is the God that created the universe, and he is the God who created you. He loves you and wants the best for you. If you can just be still and know he is God, you will see the light at the end of the tunnel. If you trust him, he will get you through whatever mess you are in. I understand how hard it is to be still at times. Remember what God has promised and trust you will someday see that light that was so hard to see while you were going through whatever tunnel you are going through. Be still and know!



With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the families of those who have entered the Church Triumphant: Marianne Murray, who passed away Jan. 2, 2021.



The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 24th following worship **PPRC will meet with Rev. Scott Harmon that morning at 9:30 am.

2021 Offering Envelopes are out on the table in Fellowship Hall. If you want envelopes and don't see any with your name on them, let the office know!



"Is prayer your steering wheel or our spare tire?"
~Corrie ten Boom



Operation Shoe Box
Here we go – let's fill the big collection box again! Remember, the monthly item is *only a suggestion* – if you see something on sale that you think a child would love, that's fine!

January is hats, gloves, and scarves!

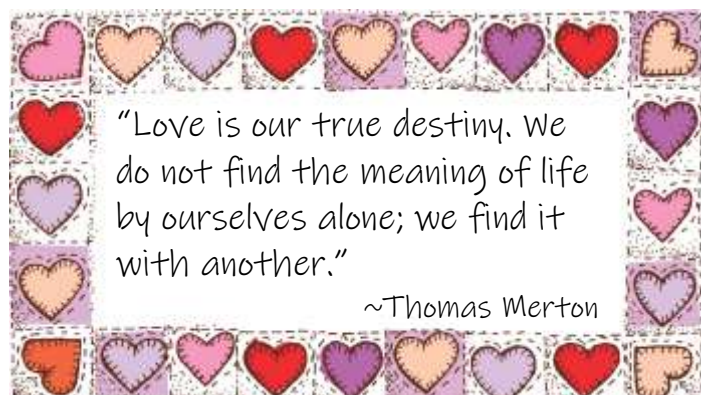


The boxes we filled this year were sent to Namibia! Namibia is located in southern Africa, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean. It is home to the world's largest population of free-roaming cheetahs and rhinos. The people of Namibia consist of at least 11 ethnic groups. Samaritan's Purse began distributing gift-filled shoeboxes in the country in 2001. Please continue to pray for the children who received our boxes. Thank you and God bless.

Sole Searching for Jamaican School Kids Update!

We recently received this update from David Brown, founder of Sole Searching:

The barrels of shoes have reached Jamaica and have been cleared and are now waiting for the next step. We are currently working with our partners in Jamaica to get ready to distribute to those who really need them the most! We will be having another update shortly when we are ready to distribute! Thanks again for following along on the journey that you all have made possible! Everyone have a blessed week and stay safe! 😊😊



~Thomas Merton



***Christmas Poinsettias Given
in Loving Memory of:***

Dick Moehl, Mike Moehl and Tom Moehl by
Margaret Moehl
 Archie M. Falor by *Donna and family*
 Elmer Jackson Jr by *Les and Laura Jackson*
 Nancy Campbell by *Dick and Ric Campbell*
 Don and Joan Pepper by *Andrea and Dawn Pepper*
 Andrew Hawver by *PaPa & Gram (Don & Jan
Hawver*
 Wes and Nina Brown by *Greg Brown*
 Tom Limberg by *Elizabeth Limberg, Marjorie &
Carl Censoni, Susan & Mick Homan, Mary
Limberg and Angie Williams*
 Tom Limberg by *Madison Censoni, Dakota
Limberg-Williams and Bronx Limberg-Williams*
 Carol Baluk and Roy Kinsey by *Pastor Ed and
Joyce*
 Marietta McGuire by *Ken McGuire*
 Merritt C. Cole by *Brenda Bell & the Cole Family*
 Marilyn Cole by *Brenda Bell & the Cole Family*
 Paul and Georganna Spayde, Gertrude & Mary
 Middlebush by *Dick and Jane Spayde*
 Martin Mol by *Gerry Mol*
 John Kirk, David and Beverly Miller by *Deb and
Dutch Miller*
 Shirley Maiville, Barb Maiville, Jean Maiville by
Sue Boyd, Carl and Rox Strieby
 Our Parents: Leon and Meta Prior, Paul and Rhea
 Courtney by *Jerry and Sandy Prior*
 Dr. Kurt Gtebe, Phillip Grebe and Fritz Grebe by
the Grebe Family

And in Honor of:

Our Children and Grandchildren by *Dick and Jane
Spayde*

Having all the church friends that know me by
Gerry Mol
 Ann Kirk, “Sprout Miller” (due 12/22/20) by *Deb &
Dutch Miller*
 Betty Strieby, the family of Nancy Campbell by *Sue
Boyd, Carl and Rox Strieby*
 Pastor Dave and Lisa Wallis by *Jerry and Sandy
Prior*

On Sunday, January 3, 2021

The Church of the Straits
welcomed new members:

Jon Cool
Shannon Cooley
Michelle Williams

and **Ed & Sue O’Dwyer**, who
have recently moved to
Levering from GA and
transferred in. Welcome to all of our new Church
Family members ♥♥♥



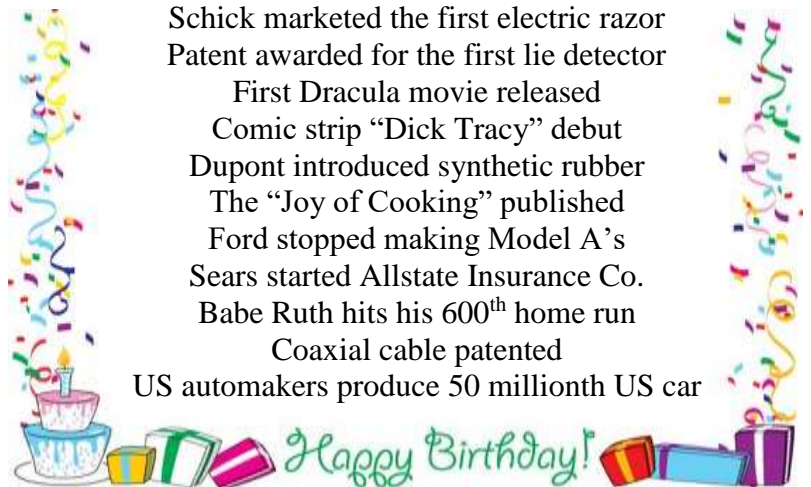
A “**from the bottom of my heart**” thank you to all those who sent “Happy 60th Birthday” wishes, cards, gifts and love. I noticed that 25 years of ministry were acknowledged as well. I guess between two churches, that is true. I’m getting old! Ha, ha! We are so blessed to be a part of this lovely church community. Also, thank you Disciple Class for the surprise birthday party! You are awesome. Love you, Dave

Beginning in January, the church office will be open **M-TH**, 9am-2pm. Pastor Dave can always be reached on his cell phone if he is needed ☺



JoAnn Rinehart turns 90 on February 3, 2021.

Here are some highlights from 1931:
 Alka Selzer introduced First ice vending machine
 The Rio de Janeiro 90’ statue of Christ is unveiled
 NYC Empire State Building opened
 Schick marketed the first electric razor
 Patent awarded for the first lie detector
 First Dracula movie released
 Comic strip “Dick Tracy” debut
 Dupont introduced synthetic rubber
 The “Joy of Cooking” published
 Ford stopped making Model A’s
 Sears started Allstate Insurance Co.
 Babe Ruth hits his 600th home run
 Coaxial cable patented
 US automakers produce 50 millionth US car



The Power of Love

By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love’s practicality in everyday life: “Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way.” He also calls love “the WD-40 of relationships” because it “can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can’t seem to penetrate.”

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God’s help, can change hearts and lives. “Love all [people], even your enemies,” he advises. “Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother



S.A.R.M. – Ongoing and Upcoming

Wow what an awesome few months S.A.R.M. had. Looking back on December, the coat drive was fantastic. S.A.R.M. raised triple the donations received last year and were able to purchase 61 coats for local children!!! The Salvation Army was so thankful and thrilled. A big thank you for all your donations and to the youth and adults that helped shop for coats.

For December S.A.R.M. Sunday, we made beautiful Christmas ornaments. Looking forward: Campaign Postcard will be honoring the elderly in January.

The S.A.R.M. youth room is now colorful, fun, and youth approved with a new bright look. Stop in and have a look!

Youth Ministry Sundays continue the second Sunday of each month immediately following Children's Time, down in the Youth Room!

I hope you had a wonderful December and Happy New Year!

Much love and God bless,
Shannon Cooley, Youth Director



Straits Talk Newsletter

January-February 2021



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

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

Minister	Pastor David Wallis
Youth Director	Shannon Cooley
Head Ushers	Todd Kohs and Greg Pietrowski
Organist	Loretta Martinek
Treasurer	Donna Falor
Financial Secretaries	Janet Schaefer and Katie Strittmatter
Clerk	Laura Jackson
Secretary	Judy Churchill

Office Phone: 231 436-8682

New Office Hours – M-Th 9am-2pm

Pastor's Home Phone: 231 436-5484

E-mail – Pastor – davidlovelisa87@gmail.com

Church office – cotsoffice@yahoo.com

Church website – www.thechurchofthestraits.com



Many people would say they would love to erase 2020 from their lives. It has been a difficult year to say the least. Perhaps more than any other year, we say I can't wait for the new year, 2021. That being said, I also believe that this year has been one that has encouraged if not even forced us to grow up in the Lord. These challenges have caused us to persevere in Christ. We have had to trust him because nothing else seems to be stable. For that, I am grateful. I have matured in my faith during these tough times and I hope you have as well.

I write this to you a couple weeks before the first of the year not knowing what is transpiring in our lives between now and then. I am sick and tired of talking about COVID, but it is a reality that has hit us hard. I am thankful for therapeutics and vaccines that may help us get to the other side of this sooner rather than

later. We also live in a bit of limbo as we navigate the turbulent election and post-election activities and I pray that God would intervene to bring resolution for the entire electorate.

How do we deal with all of this? If we don't invite God to take the throne in our hearts during this time, then we will find ourselves in turmoil. If we don't invite God to take the throne of our country, we will invite more turmoil. God wants to work with a willing partner. He can work despite us or along and within us. His ultimate purpose will be done!

The following text ought to drive us through all of this. It is Romans 5:1-5,

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

So, there is a reason for the difficult times we go through both corporately, and individually. God is working whether we realize it or not. We will look back at some point and see very clearly God's fingerprints all over our situations. Hindsight sees better than foresight. We will see God also working in our Country down the road perhaps better than some may see right now.

Trust Him folks. For me that is the easiest thing to do right now because life is too big for me to handle on my own, and God knows that.

If you and I do the above, 2021 will be a year of growth in our relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Love you and love Him,

Pastor Dave