

January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Communion AA 3pm Prayer Group 6pm 1	Wmns Bible Study 2pm 2	Pinecrest 2pm PPRC 6:30 pm 3	Hand Bells 12:30pm Journaling 2pm 4	Men's Brkfst 8am 5	 6	Men's Group 9am 7
Youth Ministry Sunday AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Video Study 6pm 8	Wmns Bible Study 2pm 8	10	Pantry 10am Hand Bells 12:30pm Journaling 2pm 11	12	13	14
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Video Study 6pm 15	Wmns Bible Study 2pm 16	 17	Hand Bells 12:30pm Journaling 2pm 18	Men's Brkfst 8am 19	20	Men's Group 9am 21
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Video Study 6pm 22	Wmns Bible Study 2pm 23	BOG 7pm 24	Pantry 10am Hand Bells 12:30pm Journaling 2pm 25	26	27	Men's Group 9am 28
Annual Cong. Meeting PPRC 10am AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm Video Study 6pm 29	Wmns Bible Study 2pm 30	31				

BIRTHDAYS:

- Jan 2 Marita Archer
- Jan 2 George Ranville
- Jan 5 Nathan Bennett
- Jan 6 June Baily
- Jan 6 Bob Benefiel
- Jan 8 Aiden Walugembe
- Jan 13 Laura Janeczek
- Jan 13 Jan Hawver
- Jan 15 Dorothy Darrow
- Jan 16 Justin Barber
- Jan 16 Conner Robertson

- Jan 18
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- Jan 23
- Jan 24
- Jan 25
- Jan 28
- Jan 31

ANNIVERSARIES:

- Ed O'Dwyer
- Jourdan Watson
- Darlene Krueger
- Rod Westhuis
- Kristi Laninga
- Jamey Jutson
- Lee Hall
- Jeff Hingston
- Dan Durant
- Genevieve Ranville
- Elizabeth Zabik

Jan 1 Tim & Elizabeth Zabik



United Methodist and ECO Presbyterian
The Church of the Straits



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Mike's Musings

Stand in the gap! What does that phrase mean to you? The dictionary defines, "stand in the gap" as, "to expose oneself for the protection of something; to take the place of a fallen defender or supporter." The old and new testaments have some examples of people who stood in the gap. Moses was one who stood in the gap between God and the Israelites. After God had given Moses the Ten Commandments, he came down the mountain and found they were worshiping the golden calf. God wanted to destroy all of them, but Moses begged God not to. God honored Moses as he stood in the gap.

Jesus also stood in the Gap for us. He took our punishment and died so we would not have to feel the sting of death. In this New Year I would like to encourage you all to stand in the gap. There are many ways we can stand in the gap. We can help our fellow man. Standing in the gap can be as easy as a kind word to someone who needs one or making a meal for someone who is sick or in need or donating to someone who needs your help. You can pray for people who don't even know how to pray. You can be there for a friend when they have lost a loved one or got an unwelcomed diagnosis.

We all need someone from time to time to stand in the gap for us. If we all stand in the gap for each other won't it be a much better world. I will end with this scripture, Ephesians 6:13, "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, stand."

Pinecrest Fellowship is the first 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.



Coats for Kids donations to the Salvation Army
Our coat donations were given to the Salvation Army to distribute to those in need in our local area.

Mission Statement from the Salvation Army:



The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to

meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Willing Workers Wreath Sales

Thank you to all who purchased the cross wreaths to help support our ministries.



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



The Food Pantry is open for the 2022-23 season. The Pantry will run every other Wednesday 10-11:00 am. for the winter months. Donations can be dropped off at the church M-Th from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Cash donations can be made to the

Church of the Straits, c/o food pantry. Helping Hands on Wednesdays are always welcome!! If you have questions, call Rose LaPointe at 436-5307. January Dates: 11th and 25th.



Video Bible Series Starts Sunday January 8th



JOIN OUR STUDY

Meeting at 6pm. Pastor will lead a video series entitled "Death and Resurrection of the Messiah" by Ray Vander Laan. Info from the interwebs:

This ten-session small group Bible study from noted teacher and historian, Ray Vander Laan, is volume four of the That the World May Know series. In it, Vander Laan illustrates how Jesus' call to follow him turned the world upside down, and learn how confronting evil can be loudly proclaiming the name of Jesus or quietly caring for someone in need.

Filmed on location in Israel, That the World May Know is a unique video series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious, and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals unique insights into the Scriptures' significance for modern believers.

These illuminating "faith lessons" afford a new understanding of the Bible that will ground your convictions and transform your life. The That the World May Know video series is ideal for use in small groups, personal and family Bible studies, and adult Sunday school. Individual believers and families will gain vital insights from long-ago times and cultures through this innovative approach to Bible study.



New Book by June Baily Available For Purchase

“Santa’s Secret Training Center”

Paperback: \$14.95 Hardcover:

\$21.95 All proceeds will go to

children’s ministries. Books will

be available in the fellowship hall

or you can contact June Baily 989-385-5050

Can also be purchased on Amazon.com



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.

SARM happenings

God is Good!

Looking back on December SARM has had a busy fun month starting with helping decorate COS for Christmas. Next SARM helped with a storytelling event where author June Bailey read her new children’s book “Santa’s Secret Training Center” with crafts, treats and hot Coco. SARM also had a Christmas party and cookies decorating on Dec. 18. SARM coats for kids drive was a great success shopping and collecting **88 coats** for needy children in this area 😊 thank you to the church of the straits congregation and the Mackinaw community for all the donations. Through your kindness many children will be able to stay warm this winter. 🙏 God is good!!

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New year.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support for SARM youth program.

God bless and much love, Shannon Cooley



WINTER



S.A.R.M. Schedule

All SARM youth activities are free of charge and open to all youth

Jan-March change to make a change....

Winter hats and gloves for Mackinaw school and Classroom needs

Cheboygan COP class 18-26 with Disabilities

Feb-12 YMS* Bowling and pizza Sparetime Lanes 1-3pm

March-5 YMS* movie/ popcorn COS*

*SARM Straits Area Resort Ministry *COS The 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 2023



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.

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
Administrative Asst.	Joshua Kuehn

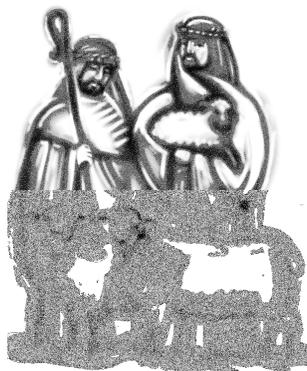
Office Phone: 231 436-8682
 Office Hours – M-Th 9am-2pm

Pastor's cell: 906 282-7409

E-mail – Pastor – davidloveslisa87@gmail.com
 Church office – cotsoffice@yahoo.com
 Church website – www.thechurchofthestrains.com

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



How many of you are like me in this regard? I love saving at stores with specials, coupons, mperks (that's a Meijer thing), or whatever is available. I probably drive Lisa nuts, but she loves me anyway. Sometimes I might go across town to get the best gas price too!

Sometimes we think we are saving when we really aren't! If I went 10 extra miles to save \$.02 gallon, I probably lost all that savings by driving to get it. Wisdom sometimes dictates a different decision. Admittedly we don't always use wisdom, do we?

Do we sometimes approach life the same way that I have approached "saving" on gas or groceries? Seeking the cheapest or easiest approach doesn't always yield the best results. Think about Cain and Abel in the book of Genesis, chapter 4:1-5. Cain knew that God deserved an offering of some kind, an acknowledgement of God being worthy of praise. But he wanted to do it his way and give God "some" of the fruit of the field (not even the best of it just some of it) as an offering. It is implied by this that Cain wanted to do the cheapest or easiest approach to honoring God.

On the other hand, Abel wanted to show God how much he loved and honored him by giving an offering of sacrifice from his flock, the best (fat portions) and the firstborn. Perhaps why God accepted Abel's offering and was not pleased with Cain's was twofold. First, Abel gave of the best whereas Cain did not. Secondly, it may be that God wanted the animal sacrifice and Cain chose to give of the vine instead. This could be alluding to the need for a sacrifice for sin (and the sacrificial system put in place later in Genesis).

Whatever the case, we can learn from this ancient story that we should offer our best to God because he deserves our best. No cheap shortcuts, no fake facades, no afterthought tokens of our appreciation but a fully devoted life to the One who is fully devoted to our wellbeing. God knows our heart like he knew Cain's heart when he later killed Abel. He Himself gave the perfect sacrifice when Jesus willingly gave his life as the sacrificial Lamb at Calvary.

Do you genuinely love God? Have you accepted the greatest gift ever given in Jesus Christ? He is worthy of praise! He is worthy of all that we have. He is worthy of our absolute best. Let's start off 2023 with our hearts fully bent on praising and honoring God in all things.

Love ya,

Pastor Dave

