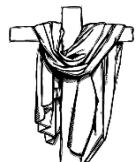


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Bell Chior 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm	Men's Brkgst 8am		Men's Group 9am
			1	2	3	4
AA 3pm Prayer Gro up 5pm Video Bible Study 6pm	Wms Bible Study 2pm	Pinecrest 2pm PPRC 6:30pm	Pantry 10am Bell Chior 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm	SARM Concert 7pm		Men's Group 9am 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
AA 3pm Prayer Gro up 5pm Video Bible Study 6pm	Wms Bible Study 2pm	Easter Flower Orders due!	Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm	Men's Brkfst 8am Willing Workers 10am		Men's Group 9am
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
AA 3pm Prayer Gro up 5pm Video Bible Study 6pm	Wms Bible Study 2pm	Blood Drive 12-5pm at St Anthony's	Pantry 10am Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm			Men's Group 9am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
AA 3pm Prayer Gro up 5pm Video Bible Study 6pm	Wms Bible Study 2pm	BOG 7pm	Hand Bells 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm			
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**BIRTHDAYS:**

March 1	Lucas Hunt	March 14	Brad Reed
March 1	Lily Hunt	March 15	Asher Kreps
March 1	Addison Boesel	March 17	Pat Hubbard
March 1	Gaia Kreps	March 18	Stephanie Skeels
March 2	Jameson Jutson	March 23	Tim Zabik
March 6	Judy Churchill	March 24	Todd Kohs
March 8	Jean Hunt	March 24	Jane Spayde
March 9	Jill Westhuis	March 27	Kate Walugembe
March 10	Emilia Grace Laninga	March 29	Bud Stone
March 11	Sherry Paquet	March 29	Karen Spencer
March 12	Georgia Prillwitz	March 30	Steve Toth
March 14	Peter Ryan		

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

March 6	Jim & Diane Stevens
March 25	Richard & Darlene Krueger



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES**

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

Sometimes it is hard to be a Christian. No... that is wrong, most of the time it's hard to be a Christian. You may ask me why I say that. This is my answer. The Pharisees asked a question of Jesus to try and get Him to say something they could trap Him with.

The asked what was the greatest commandment? His answer is found in Matthew 22:37-40 which says, "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."

You might ask, how does this scripture make it hard to be a Christian? "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your mind." I asked myself this and came up lacking. I love myself more sometimes. I'm sure if you are honest with yourself you have to say you love yourself more too. I have to then ask myself how I change. The only answer I can come up with is to ask for help to put God first. God has given us the Holy Spirit. He has also given us His word. In Ephesians 6:13-19 it says, "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, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

The second part of Jesus' answer was, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Again, this is another hard thing to do, especially when we don't like our neighbor. I am being honest when I tell you being a Christian is hard, but I can tell you also that God has helped me with putting Him first and putting others first before me. I have to be conscious of my weakness and use what the Lord has given me. I still mess up, but God forgives me.

We are all making our journey on the same road to Heaven, but we are in different places. We need to remember this and help others that are on this journey too. I will leave you with a quote from Jude 1:20-22 "But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh."

**Easter Bunny Luncheon April 1st 11am-2pm**



**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.



**Operation Christmas Child**

Please continue to shop for shoebox items throughout the year. *March is socks, underwear, mittens & hats month.*



**Blood Drive @ St Anthony's March 21st**

Mackinaw Woman's Club and St. Anthony Catholic Church are hosting a Community Blood Drive on March 21, 2023, 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm, at the St Anthony's Parish Hall, 600 W Central Ave, Mackinaw City. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. Call Donna Falor at 231-445-0151 or visit [versiti.org/miblood](http://versiti.org/miblood) and search 'Mackinaw' to schedule your appointment on-line. Save lives across Michigan by donating blood.



**Memorial Day Parade Float Help Needed!!**

We will be handing out books for kids at the Memorial Day Parade to help share info on our childrens programs. Help is needed with Planning, Decorating, and building the Float, as well as help in the parade. Planning meeting on April 10th at 10am. Please sign up in the fellowship hall.



If you wish to order Easter Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils, Azaleas, or Hydrangeas to decorate the sanctuary for Easter please fill out this form and return it to the church office **no later than March 14th.**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**IN HONOR OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**GIVEN BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_

All flowers are in 6" pots.  
Lilies, Tulips, and Daffodils = \$15 each  
Hydrangeas and Azaleas = \$30 each

Make check payable to: Church of the Straits, with the memo area marked "Easter Flowers".

Mail the form and payment to:

Church of the Straits  
PO Box 430  
Mackinaw City, MI 49701

**Please indicate your choice:**

Lily     Tulip     Daffodil  
 Hydrangea     Azalea

# SARM happenings

## Spring Is in the Air

Looking back SARM Bowling and pizza party at Sparetime lanes was so much fun and is always a great activity that the kids enjoy perfect for friends, fellowship, and fun. Thank you to Sparetime Lanes Cheboygan for your friendly service and yummy pizza 🍕.

Looking forward it's hard to believe but Easter is right around the corner. SARM with the help of the willing workers will be hosting the **Easter Bunny Luncheon** with games, lunch, Easter egg hunt, cake walk and we might have the Easter Bunny hop in to say Hi 🙌 **Saturday April 1st starting at 11 am** 😊 if you know any children that would-like to participate please let them know! The Easter Bunny Lunch is open to the public and inviting all children to come out and have some fun.

Starting the beginning of March SARM will have a sign-up sheet for cake donation for the cake walk and plastic Easter egg to fill with wrapped candy for the Easter egg hunt. We will also be accepting bags of wrapped candy. All cake donations due Friday March 31 before 2pm and eggs and candy one week before the event. Any questions please give me a call Wednesday-Friday 11-2 at the COS. Thank you for your support of SARM youth program.

Much love and God bless,

Shannon Cooley



### S.A.R.M. Attending Concert March 9th

Join us as we attend a concert by Sidewalk Prophets at Harbor Light Community Chapel in Harbor Springs, MI Thursday March 9th at 7pm. For all youth 5th grade and up. Please let Shannon Cooley know by March 1st to order tickets.

### S.A.R.M Change to make a Change

January through March SRAM is collecting winter hats and gloves for Mackinaw City elementary students. There's is a donation box located outside of the SARM room all donations are very much appreciate.

# 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**

**March 9<sup>th</sup> Sidewalk Prophets Concert 7pm**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Bunny Breakfast 11am-2pm**

\*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

## March 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](mailto:davidloveslisa87@gmail.com)  
 Church office – [cotsoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:cotsoffice@yahoo.com)  
 Church website – [www.thechurchofthestraits.com](http://www.thechurchofthestraits.com)

### OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

\*\*\*\*\*



...From Whom All Blessings Flow

I have a little plastic gourd in my office that has engraved on it this statement; "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." The statement is short and succinct but what does it really mean. I wanted to break down this statement briefly. I think it is abundantly clear that we should praise God. 1 Thess. 5:18 says to "give thanks in all circumstances" which would be synonymous with praising God because the intended recipient in the text is God the Father. So, whenever we think of God or recognize God in life's situations, we ought to give praise to Him. This is very easy to do when life is good, when the sun is shining on our soul, and crisis or tragedy has been averted. It is much harder when life is difficult, and sadness and heartache are at the forefront.

So how do we do what the phrase suggests we do? "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." "From whom" directs us to who the source is. The source is God even if the blessing is received from a person. "All" is an important word. The context usually means all (100%) like in this case! We may say something like "they all loved it" meaning a huge majority, not necessarily all. Why do I differentiate? Because I believe 100% is the intended meaning when we shared the text from 1 Thess. and I also believe the doxology we have quoted means the following phrase originates from God 100% of the time.

The last piece of that phrase is "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Maybe it's hard for us to define blessings. Sometimes they are in plain sight, and we can immediately recognize them and give God the glory. Sometimes they are disguised and not recognized until a period of time has transpired. Think of Jesus's death on the cross for example. The disciples saw it as a curse at first, but after the resurrection realized the blessing was atonement for their sins. What I am not saying is that everything that happens is a blessing (that is absolutely not true). Many things happen at the hand of Satan and that is not a blessing, but God can take the awful intent of Satan and bring out of it a blessing in time. "All things work together for good to those who love him (God)" Rom 8:28

So let God work and praise him from whom all blessings flow. He will bring blessings out of great things and horrible things over time. Just trust and obey for there is no other way (the old hymn).  
 Love you all,

Pastor Dave

