



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Food Pantry 10-11am			Men's Group 9am
		PPRC 6:30 pm 1	2	3	4	5
Labor Day Sunday 9 am at Church 11am at the Park AA 3pm Prayer Group 6 pm 6	 7			Men's Brkfst 8 am		Men's Group 9am
Communion AA 3pm Prayer Group 6 pm 13	Wms Bible Study 3 pm 14		Food Pantry 10-11am 16			Men's Group 9am 19
	Wms Bible Study 3 pm AA 3pm Prayer Group 6 pm 20	BOG 7 pm 22				Men's Group 9am 26
	Wms Bible Study 3 pm AA 3pm Prayer Group 6 pm 27		Food Pantry 10-11am 30			
BIRTHDAYS:			ANNIVERSARIES:			
Sept 4	Jim Churchill	Sept 21	Karin Thompson	Sept 6	Greg & Mary Stanley	
Sept 5	Mary Lou Peters	Sept 21	Brenda Keller	Sept 8	Terance & Jourdan Watson	
Sept 8	Werner Schoenknecht	Sept 22	Donna Hunt	Sept 10	Ken & Kristi Laninga	
Sept 8	Ron Irwin	Sept 22	Roger Moore	Sept 10	Chris & Jolene Rogala	
Sept 10	Pastor Ed Weiss	Sept 23	Larry O'Brien	Sept 10	Matt & Shannon Cooley	
Sept 11	Walt Naumer	Sept 27	Rob Griffin	Sept 12	Todd & Sue Kohs	
Sept 12	Madison Jutson	Sept 27	Gene Kapp	Sept 14	Ross & Lynn Bell	
Sept 14	Don Hawver	Sept 27	Lorahdelle Darrow	Sept 18	Rob & Katie Strittmatter	
Sept 15	Harvey Karll	Sept 28	Peter Walugemb	Sept 23	Ron & Linda Gwilt	
Sept 18	Kim Jutson	Sept 29	Pat Darrow	Sept 23	Peter & Caitlyn Ryan	
Sept 19	Sophie Orsini	Sept 30	Greg Brown	Sept 28	Austin & Noelle Martin	
Sept 19	Hannah Flemming	Sept 30	Ross Bell	Sept 30	Jim & Judy Churchill	
Sept 19	Olivia Flemming	Sept 30	Courtney Jaggi			

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 have been preparing a new class that I would like to teach in the fall. I had thought of offering a class for new believers, but God had another plan. I'm going to prepare to teach a class for those who want to take the next step in their faith. A step toward

an improved relationship with God. Paul talks about this to the Church at Corinth. 1 Corinthians 3:2 says, "I gave you milk not solid food, for you were not ready for it." Are you still drinking milk?

I have two sons. One is 30 and the other is 33. Imagine that they were that age and they were still only eating milk. You would think that strange, wouldn't you? Well many of us come to church and we sit here on Sunday and we hear our pastor's sermon, but his words don't move us to change. That was me for much of my Christian life. When we accepted God He gave us a gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us if we are listening. It tells us what God would have us do in every aspect of our lives. For many years, I wasn't listening to that voice. I went on with my life like I was part of the world. You wouldn't have known I was a Christian unless you asked me. Don't get me wrong, God was still talking to me and leading me on a different path than I was walking, yet I ignored God. So I continued drinking the milk and not being transformed. Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

How long have you been drinking milk? Is it time to grow up? There came a time when I really needed God, but I still wanted to do things my way. Satan had a good hold on me. He had me where he wanted me, and I was useless for God because I was without purpose. Maybe it was my last chance, maybe it wasn't, but something told me I needed more in my life. I began listening to the Holy Spirit. Let God speak to you.

Now when I was in church God's word stirred my heart. I began to seek more. Prayer became a regular thing. I dug into the scriptures and was hungry to hear what was contained within the pages. Up until then I had been subsisting on milk. I hadn't been ready for solid food. I am growing in the Lord daily still. I never knew how great life could be until I began to listen to the Holy Spirit. I don't know if this message is for you, but if you are unhappy in the life you now live. If you're seeking something more. Might I suggest you listen to that voice of the Holy Spirit? God has wonderful things planned for you. I can assure you it is a gift that keeps on giving. I had one foot stuck in the world and God was trying to show me there was more. We can't change our past or what we have done. God has changed me in ways I couldn't have imagined. He can do the same for you. It is time to get off the milk and eat some solid food. I feel all of us can use more meat in our Spiritual life. Will you heed the call and come to the table and eat?

Due to continuing need, the Food Pantry will be open **EVERY OTHER WEEK** on Wednesdays at 10am. September dates are the 2nd, 16th and 30th.



Operation Shoe Box

Packing month is coming! Get your donations in – thank you! Any shoebox item is welcome!

FUN STUFF!! Hygiene supplies, toys, school supplies, clothing, stuffed animals!

David Brown, founder of Sole Searching for Jamaican School Kids

grew up in Jamaica. Many times, he did not have the right size shoes or even any shoes at all. David is holding a shoe drive for ages 6-16. New or very gently used. Students are required to wear a uniform, so brown or black shoes are preferred, but all colors and styles are accepted and appreciated. Please no junk! Drop box is in the Fellowship Hall. Call Judy in the church office if you have any questions.



Thank you for the new carpet and flooring in the parsonage. Also a special thanks to Carl Strieby for helping install the foyer flooring 😊 We are lovin' it! You will all have to check it out in December at our Open House.

Hugs, Pastor Dave and Lisa

Thank you for all your prayers, cards and love after my recent heart attack and now my convalescence.

I'm finally on my way back and hope you'll continue your prayers – they certainly have helped!

Love, Mary Lou Peters



God of (All) the Ages

It's tempting to breeze through biblical genealogies, but those name lists serve important purposes. They reveal the fulfillment of prophecy, tie together time periods and Bible books, and reveal how God works in every age — and through people of all ages.

Consider the Old Testament's many references to "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." That lineage-linked name reminds us that God is the Lord of every succeeding generation and the friend of all. Although people's needs differ as they journey from youth to middle age to their later years, God remains constant and ageless, fulfilling his promises to all who seek him.

Bible Quiz Answer: C (See Exodus 7:14-12:32.)



The key to the downstairs freezer is missing! Please check your coat pockets or dresser tops and return it to the nail behind the boiler room door. For safety

concerns, we should keep the chest freezer locked. Thank you.

Labor Day Sunday, September 6,

9:00 am worship at Church of the Straits, 10:30 am concert at Conkling Heritage Park, and then at the park for the 11:00 am worship service – special musical guest Jim Quales formerly of 4 ONE Quartet. Join us for this beautiful Labor Day tradition.



Don't miss a single service! Sermons and bulletins are available each week on our website. Visit thechurchofthestraits.com

to keep in touch. Sermons are broadcast live on FaceBook each Sunday along with short messages from Pastor Dave every Tuesday and Thursday. Monthly newsletters are also on our website.

Please, please let the church office know when you leave Mackinaw City for your 'winter home'. Newsletters are returned and the church is charged for return postage costs. We want to stay connected to you and hope you feel the same way. Thank you!



When God Crosses Our Path

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." Last spring, the

whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).



Always Within Reach

As I grow older, I appreciate help getting up from the couch. Often, my husband extends his arm to boost me up. This act of kindness reminds me how the Lord reaches out to me each morning. He is the strength to lift me up so I

needn't depend on myself.

Looking back through the years, I can see how the Lord endlessly extended his arm to me. Isaiah 33:2 says, "O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble." Too often I haven't waited for the Lord, and my impatience resulted in no-good results. Waiting for — and accepting — God's guidance isn't always easy, but he always comes through, and we're never out of his reach.

I'm so thankful my heavenly Father graciously extends his arm to help me up, get me "unstuck" and keep me from trouble.

~ MaryAnn Sundby

Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to discover what we should do each day.

CODE

A	1	B	F	2	G	K	3	L	O	4	R	U	5	V
D	E	H	I	M	N	S	T	W	X	Y	Z			

T
 [4] [1] [3] [3] [4] [4] [2] [4] [1]
 [1] [3] [1] [3] [2] [4] [4] [1] [3]
 [2] [4] [4] [2] [4] [1]
 " [1] [1] [4] [4] [2] [3] [3] [1] [3] [1]
 [3] [3] [4] [5] [4] [2] [1] [4]
 [2] [1] [3] [2] [4] [1]"

Answer: Talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)



Well, we **ROARED** and another successful VBS is in the books! First, I would like to thank everyone who donated their money and time towards VBS. A **HUGE** thank you to all

the teachers, station leaders, music directors, games coordinators, Hungry Herd Café staff and our sound guy – Roger. Together, this team made a memorable week for everyone. We had 19 faithful kids, only about ½ the number we normally have, but the children and staff drew so much from each other and closer to Jesus!

Each day we had a theme animal, theme Bible verse and theme lesson. The lessons this year were made for what we've all been going through since March. I truly believe God put this curriculum in my hands for a reason!

- Day 1 – When Life is Unfair... God is Good!
- Day 2 – When Life is Scary... God is Good!
- Day 3 – When Life Changes... God is Good!
- Day 4 – When Life is Sad... God is Good!
- Day 5 – When Life is Good... God is Good!

We had daily videos about different children in the African Country of Zambia. We saw hardships and joys that these kids have lived through. We were able to see how God was working in their lives and also in our own lives!

Our mission this year was the NLM "Goat Project". And with only **19 kids**, we collected **\$233.00** to purchase goats for the widows in Uganda. Pretty impressive ♥♥♥

Thank you again for your support and prayers. I feel so blessed to be a part of the COS VBS Team!

~ Judy Churchill



Crafts



MUSIC



Pharaoh and Moses!



Yummy Snacks



Games



Greetings from S.A.R.M.!

A big thank you to everyone that participated in the Sing-a-long at the Tee Pee Campground ▲ on Saturday, August 22nd. A fun time was had by all!! Looking forward - S.A.R.M. will be starting "Campaign Postcard" - details to follow... And starting in November, there will be S.A.R.M. Sundays on the second Sunday of each month. Stay tuned for more information!!

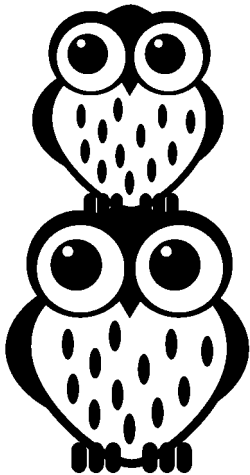
Much love and God bless,
Shannon Cooley, Youth Director



WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



- | | |
|---------|---------------|
| school | — ○ — — — |
| paper | — ○ — |
| wisdom | — — ○ — |
| read | — — — ○ |
| play | — — — — — |
| learn | ○ — — — — |
| grow | — ○ — — — — |
| pencils | — — — — — |
| pray | — ○ — — — |
| art | — — — — — |
| student | — — — ○ — — |
| kids | — — — ○ — — — |
| apple | — — — ○ — — — |

"... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _____ and successful."

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

Bible Quiz

Which of these was *not* one of the 10 plagues God brought against Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go?

- A. an abundance of frogs
- B. the Nile River turned to blood
- C. the collapse of the pyramids
- D. thick darkness





Straits Talk Newsletter

September 2020

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

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.
 Adult Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
 **Labor Day Sunday will be 9:00 at the church and 11:00 am at the Park

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 Church website – www.thechurchofthestrains.com



Has anyone noticed that the election season is heating up! We added a little extra flavor this time around with a pre-election pandemic and threw in some protests (rightly so) and riots (wrongly so) and then add to it restricted travel, mask wearing, economic turmoil and you have a recipe for some interesting dialogue. Folks, I am not making light of any of the above but I am concerned that we draw such hard lines on issues that we either have to agree completely with someone or we are considered the enemy.

Can we agree on some things like ice cream or popcorn (I think a large majority agree on this) Ha! Ha! I am trying to find a common denominator. I like dialoguing with people about their beliefs and passions, but it can be a dangerous venture when the tongue and the emotions aren't held in check. I witness this on Facebook more than I would like to admit.

Here is a real practical passage from James 1:26-27 to consider,

“If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by this world.”

This passage in essence is saying, “put your faith into practice!” If I believe in mercy and grace, then practice it. If I believe in love, then love the unlovable. If I believe that Jesus died for my sin, then he also died for others sin as well. If I believe I am forgiven, then I need to forgive others.

At times like these I believe the Church can really shine so let's not mess up the opportunity to be light and salt to a world that has seemed to lose its direction. Let's share the truth but do so in love. One of my favorite non-biblical phrases is “a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down.” We have lost that art of sharing the truth with a “spoonful of sugar.” Not watering down the truth but helping those who hear it to receive it because it is shared in love.

We can be decisive without being divisive. We can be strong without being mean. We can engage instead of shutting off.

I love you,

Pastor Dave