



SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Men's Brkfst 9am		Men's Group 9am
				1	2	3
Worship COS 9am	LABOR DAY					Men's Group 9am
Worship Park 11am	SARM Bridge Walk 7am	Pinecrest 2pm	Bible Journaling 2pm			
AA 3pm		PPRC 6:30pm				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion						Men's Group 9am
Youth Sunday Sch 9:30am	Wmn's Bible Study 3pm		Hand Bells 12:30pm			
Service back to 10:30am			Bible Journaling 2pm	Willing Workers 10am		
AA 3pm						
Prayer Group 6pm	11	12	13	14	15	16
Listening Session 11:30am	Wmn's Bible Study 3pm		Hand Bells 12:30pm	Listening Session 7pm		Men's Group 9am
AA 3pm			Bible Journaling 2pm			
Prayer Group 6pm						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		BOG Mtg 7pm	Hand Bells 12:30pm			
AA 3pm			Bible Journaling 2pm			
Prayer Group 6pm						
25	26	27	28	29	30	
BIRTHDAYS:				ANNIVERSARIES:		
Sept 3	Chad Robertson	Sept 21	Karin Thompson	Sept 1	John & Brenda Keller	
Sept 4	Jim Churchill	Sept 21	Brenda Keller	Sept 10	Ken & Kristi Laninga	
Sept 5	Mary Lou Peters	Sept 22	Roger Moore	Sept 10	Matt & Shannon Cooley	
Sept 6	Sue O'Dwyer	Sept 23	Larry O'Brien	Sept 12	Todd & Sue Kohs	
Sept 7	Matt Cooley	Sept 27	Gene Kapp	Sept 14	Ross & Lynn Bell	
Sept 8	Emma Zabik	Sept 27	Lorahdelle Darrow	Sept 18	Rob & Katie Strittmatter	
Sept 8	Ron Irwin	Sept 28	Quincy Ranville	Sept 23	Peter & Caitlyn Ryan	
Sept 10	Pastor Ed Weiss	Sept 28	Peter Walugembe	Sept 28	Austin & Noelle Martin	
Sept 11	Walt Naumer	Sept 29	Meaghan Kuehn	Sept 30	Jim & Judy Churchill	
Sept 12	Madison Jutson	Sept 30	Greg Brown			
Sept 14	Don Hawver	Sept 30	Ross Bell			
Sept 15	Spencer Austin	Sept 30	Courtney Jaggi			
Sept 18	Kim Jutson					

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

Summer is in the rearview mirror and we are approaching fall quickly. One thing I've noticed is that some people that were coming before the pandemic are no longer in attendance. I know many replaced going to church with

watching church on our phones or TV. I understand for safety during the pandemic that was necessary. But, life is getting back to normal now. Why haven't some returned? I don't want people to be upset with me, but I feel like we are not whole without all of the body of believers. Ephesians 4:16 says, "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

I know we can live without a leg or a foot or a hand or an arm, but should we? The unity of the body, your own spiritual growth, protection and blessings are all at risk when you're disconnected from the body of Christ. I want to say there is no such thing a Lone Ranger Christian!!! We need one another in the church. 1 Corinthians 12:12 says, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." If we are to be a whole body we need all of you. We all have a purpose according to God's word. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." If I haven't told you all lately, I need you! I hope you need me too.

I heard a story about a preacher who went to visit a man who said he wasn't going to church anymore. It was a cold day when the Pastor went for his visit. He knocked on the man's door and the man invited him in. The man led the pastor inside and they sat down in front of a nice fire. They sat and talked for a few moments and then the pastor got to his feet and went over to the fireplace. He grabbed the tongs and pulled a small ember from the flames and sat it outside the fireplace and returned to his seat. They talked a little more and the pastor got up to leave. The man asked, "Why did you pull that ember out of the fire?"

The Pastor replied, "The ember is you. When you are away from the church you grow dim and lose your fire." He walked over and grabbed the tongs and replaced the ember in the fire then said, "You see it is back on fire."

The man said, "Pastor that was a great sermon. I'll see you on Sunday." I know for some it not that easy of a choice. I say take whatever precautions you need to, but come back to the body. We need you all. **God loves you and so do I.**

Thank you!

We received contributions in the amount of \$2773.39 for Tornado Relief in Gaylord. The money was sent to the Gaylord Methodist Church to aid in needs not covered by other organizations.

Thank you for your generous support ♥♥♥♥



etc... anything fun!!!.

Operation Christmas Child
We've gathering items to fill boxes in November. These are just suggestions!

September is games, small puzzles, yo-yos, jacks, Etch-a-Sketch, marbles, jump ropes,



We extend our sympathy to the families of those who have entered the Church Triumphant: Harlan Jurries, Kristi Laninga's dad, who passed away July 25, 2022.

Jeanine Clemens, Sue Kohs mom, who passed away August 22, 2022.

Dear Congregation,

In the next week or so you will be receiving a document and letter that relates to what is going on in the United Methodist Church and how the BOG thinks we should respond. There is a split that is taking place in the denomination and we are in the middle of it. We will be sharing this document with the membership and having two listening sessions to determine what we want to do. The listening sessions are scheduled for September 18th after church and Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00 pm. A vote will take place Sunday, October 2nd after the worship service. Hope to see you there!

It is with mixed emotion that I write this last newsletter.

Jim and I have submitted our resignation/retirement letters to the BOG and will officially retire from The Church of the Straits on September 30, 2022.

16 years ago, I began a new career as church secretary. I started the day after Pastor Dave came to COS. We have laughed and cried and become the best of friends. He and Lisa are so very dear to me and I will miss them immensely. But along with them, I have gained a huge church family. Each one of you is special to me and I will miss you all so very much.

We have purchased a small condo in Waterford, MI where we will be close to both sets of grandkids. Carter is entering college (where did that time go??) and he will only be an hour away. We also purchased a small villa in Green Valley, AZ, so no more Michigan winters. I imagine most of you are tired of me complaining about the cold!!!

Our new summer (Mid May-Dec) address is:

902 Saybrook Drive, Waterford, MI 48327

Our new winter (Jan-mid May) address is:

522 S Paseo Madera D, Green Valley, AZ 85614

Don't be strangers – you are after all, beloved family! Thank you for allowing me to work in your beautiful church for these last 16 years – it was the greatest job I've ever had. I love you! ♥♥♥ Judy





We had an amazing week at VBS! The kids learned that no matter what challenges they have, God is there to meet their needs. They learned about the promise of Peace, Riches, Power, Love and Hope. My hope is that these lessons stay with them for the rest of their lives!

This year we supported the Forever Home Donkey Rescue & Sanctuary in Benson, AZ. We had 36 kids and they collected \$500 for the donkeys!

I'd like to give a huge shout out to all who made VBS possible – Registration Rangers, Trek Teachers, *Grand Canyon Café* staff, Music Rangers, Game Rangers, *Mammoth Cave Craft* Leaders, our Sound Ranger and National Park Photographer. We had 25 volunteers who made the week so much fun! What a super team!



I also want to thank everyone who has worked with me and supported me over the past 8 years of directing VBS. It has been a “mountain-top” experience ♥ I love you all!

And God has answered my prayers – next year VBS will be directed by Kim Jutson and Alisha Powers. They are going to do GREAT things, and I'm so excited for them! Please continue to love and support all of them. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

With Sincere Gratitude, Judy Churchill

Summer and SARM

Looking back on July & August, SARM had great Sunday Sundaes! The kids had a lesson about how Jesus was a teacher and "the Christ, Son of the living God!" We prayed for the upcoming school year, played at 2 parks and of course..... had ice cream! In addition, July 22nd, SARM youth met at Strait to the Root for a lesson and a healthy treat! We had a lesson about our bodies being God's Temple and how important it is to take care of it. What a beautiful morning to get together!

Looking forward - SARM will be walking the Mackinaw Bridge on September 5th, Labor Day, meeting at COS at 7:00 am, then breakfast at Audie's Restaurant. Pick up at COS time TBA.

Ongoing "Change for a Change" is collecting money and items for the AA Crisis Pregnancy Center located in Cheboygan. For a list of needs, please contact me at COS. Thank you!

Much love and God bless,
Shannon Cooley, Youth Director



Straits Talk Newsletter

September 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.

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

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“Parting is such sweet sorrow”

Please plan to attend a good-bye and Godspeed reception following the September 25th service, honoring our friends and neighbors, Jim and Judy Churchill. We reluctantly send them downstate & to Arizona, thinking of all they have contributed to our church, both as members and in their roles as Office Administrator & Custodian. Get the Kleenex ready, folks! ~ Sue O'Dwyer and Shannon Cooley



I'm writing this smack dab in the middle of Vacation Bible School week. Thus far it has been a fantastic week with our kids and our volunteers. Undoubtedly seeds are being planted this week that will last an eternity. I pray with my whole heart that these kids will all come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ and accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

This investment in these kids is one of the most important things we could ever do as a church. If we can't see the value of this investment then we are not doing what God wants us to do. That extends to how we value our children on Sunday mornings and every other day of the week.

We have expressed some value in having hired a youth director, Shannon Cooley, but she can't do it alone. We have expressed some value in having a Sunday School for kids but we need to bring the kids into the Sunday School. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers. We have expressed some value in having a nursery during church, but most of our volunteers are the grandparents of the children that come. Thank you grandparents! If I wasn't pastor, I would be one of them helping in the nursery.

We need more people to care about our kids. We need more people to help in the nursery. We need more people to embrace the young families in our neighborhoods and encourage them to come to church. We need more people to give more than lip service to the need to help create a culture of unbridled love for our children.

The disciples had the same issue many of us do with regard to the children. They thought they were a distraction and Jesus said, absolutely not! Listen to the text in Luke 18:15ff, “People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’”

I'm begging us to heed Jesus' words and live with a priority towards children. The sound of children in church is never a distraction, it should be the sweetest sound we could ever hear in the church.

Think about how you and I can change the culture of the church to exude our love and care for children by what we do and what we say. We've come part way but I believe we can do much more. The challenge is before us. What will we do?

I love you!

Pastor Dave