

# FEBRUARY

| SUNDAY                                  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                               | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Communion<br>AA 3pm<br>Prayer Group 5pm | Wmns Bible Study 2pm<br> |   | Food Pantry 10am<br>Hand Bells 12:30pm<br>Bible Study 6:30pm | Men's Brkfst 8am                       |     | Men's Group 9am  |
| 1                                       | 2   | 3   | 4  | 5                                      | 6  | 7  |
| AA 3pm<br>Prayer Group 5pm              | Wmns Bible Study 2pm  | Pinecrest 2pm   | Bible Study 6:30pm   |  |  | Men's Group 9am<br>Crafting Bee 2-5pm<br> |
| 8                                       | 9   | 10  | 11   | 12                                     | 13   | 14   |
| AA 3pm<br>Prayer Group 5pm              | Wmns Bible Study 2pm<br> |  | Food Pantry 10am<br>Ash Wed @ St Anthony 7pm                 | Men's Brkfst 8am<br>Helping Hands 10am |  | Men's Group 9am  |
| 15                                      | 16  | 17  | 18   | 19                                     | 20   | 21   |
| AA 3pm<br>Prayer Group 5pm              | Wmns Bible Study 2pm  | BOG 7pm   | Bible Study 6:30pm   |  |  | Men's Group 9am  |
| 22                                      | 23  | 24  | 25   | 26                                     | 27   | 28   |

## ANNIVERSARIES:

Feb 2 Scott & Cheryl Newman  
 Feb 11 Ryan & Amber Newman  
 Feb 15 Bud & Katy Stone  
 Feb 23 Ron & Ann McClue  
 Feb 29 Charlie & Kathy Heilman



## BIRTHDAYS:

|        |                 |        |                  |
|--------|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| Feb 1  | Amanda Bosel    | Feb 20 | Tara Strieby     |
| Feb 2  | Royce Ryan      | Feb 24 | Julia Short      |
| Feb 5  | Eliana Walugemb | Feb 24 | Samantha Reed    |
| Feb 5  | Donna Canales   | Feb 24 | Bill Marvin      |
| Feb 6  | Noah Batdorf    | Feb 26 | Ken McGuire      |
| Feb 8  | Connie Ware     | Feb 27 | Burkleigh Wallis |
| Feb 13 | Marilyn Imeson  | Feb 27 | Ryker Newman     |
| Feb 16 | Megan Wallis    | Feb 28 | Diane Stevens    |
| Feb 17 | Wendy Orsini    |        |                  |

Global Methodist and ECO Presbyterian  
**Church of the Straits**



P.O. Box 430 \* Mackinaw City, MI 49701

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### Mike's Musings

I know from experience that sometimes life is messy. I mean things happen that make life hard and it feels like a struggle we just can't bear. Like unexpected bills, or prolonged illness, loss of a job, or relationship problems. Even sometimes death of loved ones, or the pain of things that just don't seem fair. We all have them and yet we don't always deal with them in a good way. So why do we struggle so hard with life, often times it's because we don't prepare ourselves spiritually.

First, as Christian, we don't understand where our struggles come from. Paul writes Ephesians 6:12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Second, we must believe that God's word doesn't lie. God gave Paul these words to let us know the truth. Ephesians 6:13-17 "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."

Third, we have to understand we don't stand alone. God has a plan and He even uses the evil that Satan intends for bad for good. Romans 8:28, which states, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" This verse explains that we need to love God and know He has a purpose for us.

If we put on the armor of God, trust He doesn't lie and know he is working things out no matter what it looks like, we will get through whatever is going on in our lives. It may sound too simple, but I say these things from experience. Try these three steps when you feel life is out of control and see how God works for you.

### Operation Christmas Child

February ideas are accessories – sunglasses, hair ties, hats, bracelets, necklaces, small purses/tote bags, bandanas, watches, rings.



### Food Pantry Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am to noon

Help is needed to support healthy nutrition for those in need. We will need donations and help to distribute food on the day of the events. Please plan to help out if you are able. Thanks!



### Coffee Hour and Reader Sign Ups

Please see the various sign-up sheets by the entrance to the church. We always need help with Coffee Hour and for readers on Sunday.



**A Crafting Bee will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, next date Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** Crafting will start

at 2pm and continue until 6pm (or when people are "crafted out" - whichever comes first). Bring your paints, scrapbook paper, sewing, or whatever you like to do. Daycare will be provided, and I encourage you to bring a finger snack or non-alcoholic beverage to share. Contact Samantha Sprague @ 231-884-4458 with questions.

### Financial Peace University

Are you interested in going through Dave Ramsey's Finance Class? The cost would be about \$80 each. It would be held at COTS. Workbooks are included in the cost. It's a wonderful tool to teach God's view on how we should be handling our finances. Contact Samantha Sprague if interested. 231-884-4458

### Save the Date: May 31<sup>st</sup> 2026

Church of the Straits is sponsoring a concert event at the Cheboygan Opera House!



Committees will be formed to coordinate and support the event. If you would like to help out, see Sue Kohs or Shannon Cooley.



### Women's Winter Bingo March 5<sup>th</sup> 11am



Helping Hands will be hosting a Winter Bingo event with prizes and lunch at 11:30am. There will be a shopping trip for prizes on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> 9am heading to Gaylord.

### The Love God Desires

God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?



Pinecrest Fellowship is the second 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.



### Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Michael Canales is leading a bible study on the book of Philippians Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Please see Michael if you have questions or would like to attend.



### Want something mentioned in the newsletter?

Let the Church Office know! Thanks.  
(231) 436-8682 or [cotsoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:cotsoffice@yahoo.com)

### Change to Make a Change

Kids helping Kids. We will be collecting your spare change as well as other donations to help support several causes this year including:

**Coats for Kids**  
**Operation Christmas Child "Shoeboxes"**  
**Purses with a Purpose**

We will have collection boxes for any items that are donated. Thanks for your support helping us to make a "Change" in our community.

## SARM happenings

### At Church of the Straits, We Love Kids!



Thanks for Supporting Coats for Kids!!

Sunday School Room



**Upcoming Events**  
**Feb Dates TBA**  
**Easter Bunny Lunch March 21st**

**Shannon Cooley at Church of the Straits. Wed-Friday 11 AM to 2 PM (231)436-8682**

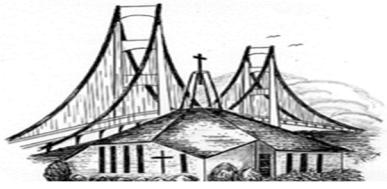
\*SARM Straits Area Resort Ministry \*COS Church of the Straits

\*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

## February 2026



The Mission of 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 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Minister             | Pastor David Wallis |
| Youth Director       | Shannon Cooley      |
| Head Ushers          | Todd Kohs           |
|                      | Erin Masters        |
| 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.churchofthestraits.com](http://www.churchofthestraits.com)

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I've begun a preaching series on 1 John since the start of the new year. I don't think I have ever done a series on John's first letter. It seems that a major theme that resonates in this letter is the theme of "love." It is mentioned in some form 45 times in this small letter.

Love is such a broadly used term I wonder how well we understand it as used in Holy Scripture. Love as presented on TV is a fleeting term. It comes and goes. It is dependent on others responding in like kind. It seeks sensuality as opposed to depth and duration. It's a throwaway term if things don't work out. It's conditional! It just doesn't last.



When John was writing this letter to the believers it is clear that there was some erring in the church and splits were beginning to take place (no different than in today's church). There was a major concern with Gnosticism (one of the components was denying Jesus' humanity and invoking a kind of dualism). Another component was seeing the body as sinful and the spirit as good. There was a need to treat both body and soul independently of each other. You could do evil things and yet be spiritually pure, divorcing us from moral responsibility.

In many ways, John's letter addressed a lot of these concerns. First and foremost, Jesus was from the beginning and also lived amongst us, and intervened for us on the cross, as fully human and fully divine. How we respond to that awesome love expression is to love others as He has loved us. We can't separate how we love from how we express our love for God. Our love for God is expressed in how we live, how we behave, how we interact with his children.

Real love is not a feeling or a fleeting moment, it is based on a real relationship with Jesus that has affected my whole being. How do others know we are Christians? By our love!

It is evidenced in our actions! It is evidenced in our hearts! It is evidenced in our words! It is evidenced in how we live in our community! It can only and truly be consistently evidenced when we seek to walk in relationship with the one who died on the cross and rose again so we could have an unfettered relationship with God.

I want us to walk through 1 John together over the next couple months to really understand the love of God manifest in the church of Jesus Christ. I'm looking forward to it.

Love you,

 Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave



God is  
**love.**

1 John 4:8