



# December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Wms's Bible Study 2pm Poinsettia Orders Due!		Food Pantry 10am Bell Choir 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm	Men's Brkfst 8am		Men's Group 9am
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Communion	Wms's Bible Study 2pm	Pinecrest 2pm	Bell Choir 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm			Men's Group 9am Gift Wrapping 11:30am
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	7	8	9	10	11	12
13						
Annual Potluck	Wms's Bible Study 2pm		Food Pantry 10am Bell Choir 12:30pm Bible Journaling 2pm Blue Christmas 7pm	Men's Brkfst 8am Helping Hands 10am		Men's Group 9am
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	14	15	16	17	18	19
20						
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	Wms's Bible Study 2pm	BOG 7pm	Christmas Eve 7pm			Men's Group 9am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
AA 3pm Prayer Group 5pm			Food Pantry 10am			
28	29	30	31			

BIRTHDAYS:

Dec 2	Julie Burnett
Dec 3	Roy Cole
Dec 7	Todd Janeczek
Dec 7	Hank Hinsman
Dec 7	Barbara Stone
Dec 9	Sue Austin
Dec 12	Bill Doest
Dec 13	Ron McClue
Dec 14	GingerMannarino

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dec 1	Nelson & Denise Thompson
Dec 5	Chuck & Ginny Brew
Dec 16	Nelson & Rose LaPointe
Dec 18	Bill & Danna Marvin
Dec 18	Spencer & Sue Austin
Dec 31	Danny & Quincy Ranville

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



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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Mackinaw City  
Michigan 49701  
Permit No. 1



Mike's Musings

I recently heard a message about Joseph, the 11th son of Jacob. He was sold into slavery for 11 years, then was charged with a crime and put in prison for two years. This may sound like things were not going good for him, but yet the scriptures say in Genesis 29:21 “But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy...” We all go through things and wonder why God allows these things to happen. We don’t always feel that God is with us. We only see the darkness that has entered our lives.

I want you to remember that as a believer God is with us, He lives within us. We just want the current trouble to stop. Truth is God never lets anything happen to us that doesn’t have a purpose. In Joseph’s case God saved His chosen people to keep them from starving and also preserved the entire world from the famine.

If you are going through a dark part of your life, trust that God has a reason. Take faith that God has your best interest in mind. God promised that He would never leave us or forsake us. He may just be preparing you for something better. I can’t say this enough, “**God’s Got It!**”



**Operation Christmas Child**

Boxes are ready to be filled! Please fill and return before **Nov 17th**. List of items are in each box. If you don’t

want to shop, there is a box located on the Samaritan table near the entrance taking donations for shipping. Thank you all for helping the children have a blessed Christmas. **For November: older kids: tape measure, craft hammer, sewing kit, mixing spoons, spatulas, plastic utensil sets, calculator, flashlight & batteries....**

**Food Pantry Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</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!

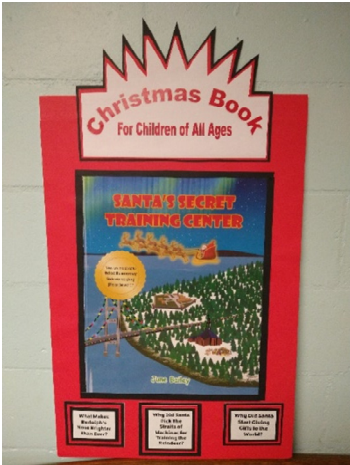


**For Sale: Santa’s Secret Training Center Book**

A fun way to teach children why Santa (St Nicholas) “started” giving gifts to the world. Families can start a new Godly Christmas tradition by reading this story every Christmas. The story takes place in the Straits of Mackinaw and ends at our very own nativity scene. 100% of the profits will be going to Children’s Ministries.

Books will be back in Church mid Nov. Any questions please call June Bailey 989-385-5050 or the Church office.

Out of towners can buy on Amazon.com



**Coffee Hour and Liturgist 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.



**Christmas “Wrap Session” Sat Dec 13th**

**11:30am-3:30pm**

Get those gifts wrapped before they are discovered! Enjoy a yuletide atmosphere. Nibble on cookies, savor a little coffee. Enjoy shortening your holiday to-do list. Wrapping paper and tape are supplied or bring your own.



**Blue Christmas Celebration**

On Dec 17th at 7pm. This worship service includes opportunities for expression of grief, pain, and heartbreak as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope found in in Jesus Christ. Join us as we worship together!



**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
7pm on Wednesday  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup>**



If you would like a plant to decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas season, please fill out the following form. After Christmas Eve, you may take your plant home, or give it away as a gift.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

**IN HONOR OF:**

**GIVEN BY:**

Each 6” potted poinsettia is \$20.  
Your order must be in no later than Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at the church office.  
Please make check payable to:  
Church of the Straits  
P.O. Box 430  
Mackinaw City, MI 49701



**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.



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

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



**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**

Youth Group is accepting monetary donations along with winter coats, boots, snow pants and socks. All donations stay local. **Please donate by Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**



## **SARM happenings**

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



#### **The Sound of Music**



#### **Helping Pack Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child**

#### **Upcoming Events**

**Decorate Christmas Tree Dec 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Coats for Kids Donations Due Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**

**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

December 2025



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.

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

## OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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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Dear Church of the Straits Family,

The trees are almost bare, we've had our first snow, Thanksgiving, and now we are getting ready for Christmas. Reflecting back, it's crazy to think this is our 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas in Mackinaw City. So many things have changed in that time - our kids have grown and made homes and families of their own. Our church family has had new members, some have gone on to their heavenly home, some have moved but one thing that doesn't change is the love we share. The support, the prayers, the love, the forgiveness, and growing together is a gift that we give to each other.

We thank God for each of you.

May we spend time reflecting on the marvelous gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ during the busy Christmas season and every day that we have breath. Don't just reflect on it but share it. One sweet baby born on that holy night brought a bright light to this dark world. Let us continue to shine the light!!! We pray that each one of you has a blessed Christmas season. We love you all and look forward to serving and sharing in all the blessings God has for us in 2026.

Hugs,

Lisa and Pastor Dave

