



ANNIVERSARIES:

July 1	Carter Jaggi	July 17	Brenda Beyer	July 1	Caleb & Courtney Jaggi
July 6	Knox Wilson	July 20	Steve Powers	July 1	David & Stephanie Skeels
July 9	Kylie Reed	July 21	Lyn Benefiel	July 10	Brad & Samantha Reed
July 10	Cobe Robertson	July 23	Dick Spayde	July 14	Mike & Donna Canales
July 10	John Keller	July 26	Mackenzie Jutson	July 14	Steve & Alicia Powers
July 11	Cynthia Thompson	July 26	June Heilman	July 19	Dave & June Bailey
July 13	Rian Esper	July 26	Gussie Williams	July 23	David & Sherry Paquet
July 14	Dana Paape	July 31	Deb Miller	July 24	Jerry & Estella Smith
July 16	Myran Thompson			July 25	Nick & Dee Nickerson
July 16	Levi Walugembe			July 28	Dutch & Deb Miller



Global Methodist and ECO Presbyterian
Church of the Straits



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

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Mike's Musings

Early in my Christian life I made a lot of mistakes on how I walked out my life. I did and said things that weren't in line with scripture. I got to thinking how easy it would have been if I could figure out what God wanted from me. You see I hadn't realized that

I was doing all the work and failing at that miserably. Then I started reading God's word and God showed me it was Him who needed to be working on me, and I needed to let Him work.

This scripture comes to mind 1 Peter 1:15-19 "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." God sent Jesus to do the work I couldn't do. My works matter to God but not for my salvation. My works won't save me. I can never be good enough.

So how do I be Holy you may ask? You and I are made Holy by what Christ did on the cross. So, you may ask, why do I need to do works? These verses tell me that I should fear God. Not because He might get mad at me, but because I don't want to disappoint Him. When I look at my walk now, I can see God was helping me do the things that were pleasing to Him.

We need to take the guess work out of how we please God. If you're like me you say, how do I do that? It is really simple, love God with all your heart and love your neighbor. That was what Jesus said. If you do that you can't go wrong. I say a lot of things each month to help you on your walk with Jesus. If you hear nothing else, I say hear this: Jesus died so you could live life more abundantly and you do that by following these two simple rules. **Love God and love your neighbor.**

Remember God loves you and so do I

Coffee Hour Signups Needed

We're always looking for helpers! There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for the coming months. Please don't feel you have to do an "elaborate spread". Cookies and coffee, some juice is all that is needed.

"God, your presence is like a consuming fire — not destructive, but transformative, not the fire of anger but the flame of love, the fire of glassblowers and bakers, the grace to make us more beautiful, strong and useful. Your glory is no tame campfire where we sit and make s'mores. It burns out of our control. The furnace of your love roars about our hearts, remaking us. Teach us to be unafraid. ..."

- Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes

When you bask in firelight glow — and maybe eat some s'mores! — ponder how God is transforming you with love, and for the sake of love.



Samaritan's Purse

Christmas In July

Please help Church of the Straits and Samaritan's Purse teach needy children around the world the true meaning of Christmas and give them a Christmas they will remember for a lifetime:

1. Take a box, pick an age for a boy or girl.
2. Fill the box with toys/items you think he or she would like. Please, no batteries, liquid or perishable items.
3. Bring the box to Church of the Straits

We will still have our regular collection in November. **Suggestions: July is clothes month! Socks, underwear, shirts, shoes, sandals, sun dresses, etc..**



Church Picnic July 20th After Service

Hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be provided. There will be a sign up for deserts.



VBS is coming!!

VBS is August 4th – 8th from 9am – noon with the Friday Parent Program from 12-12:30 pm.

Our theme this year will be **Scuba! Diving into friendship with God.** At Scuba kids discover how they can shine Jesus' love and hope in everyday life!

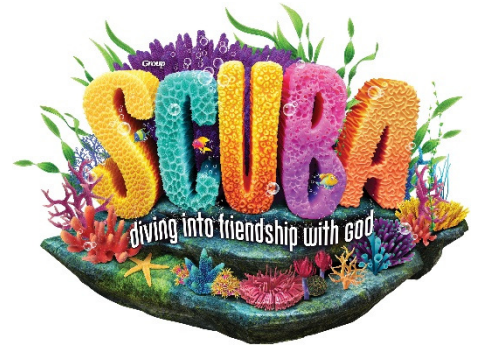
Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible

Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus' light, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Scuba Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

VBS is open to age 4 – to those going into 7th grade. ****Pre-registration is encouraged!** Please call the office 231-436-8682.

VBS Sunday will be July 27th. Instead of asking for specific craft items or specific food items, we've found we can get exactly what is needed and avoid duplicates or missed items if we take donations.

Thank you in advance for supporting our community VBS program! If you have any questions, please contact Kim 248.345.6017. Thanks!



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.



Want something mentioned in the newsletter?
Let the Church Office know! Thanks.
(231) 436-8682 or 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!



Baccalaureate



Memorial Day Parade



Mackinac Island Trip

Upcoming Events

Sunday Sundae Sully's Sweet Shop: July 13th

Scuba! VBS Aug 4th-8th

Sunday Sundae Kilwins of MC: Aug 10th

Labor Day Bridge Walk and Breakfast at Audie's: Sept 1st

Shannon Cooley at Church of the Straits. Tues, Thurs, 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

July 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.

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship 10:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Minister
Youth Director
Head Ushers

Organist
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Clerk
Administrative Asst.

Pastor David Wallis
Shannon Cooley
Todd Kohs
Erin Masters
Loretta Martinek
Donna Falor
Laura Jackson
Laura Jackson
Joshua Kuehn

Office Phone: 231 436-8682

Office Hours – M-Th 9am-2pm

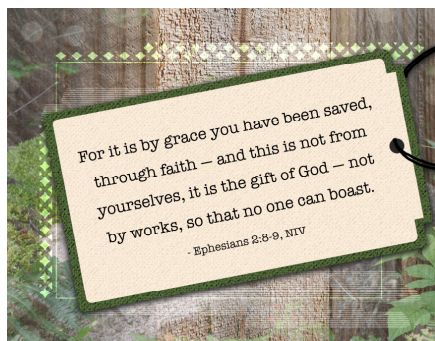
Pastor's cell: 906 282-7409

E-mail – Pastor – davidloveslisa87@gmail.com

Church office – cotsoffice@yahoo.com

Church website – www.churchofthestraits.com

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I am going to bring up a phrase in a moment that is loaded with emotional and political opinions that I do not intend to address here. I will take the phrase I am about to speak of and turn it in a direction that doesn't elicit such turmoil and opinion. The phrase is "I am entitled to _____ (fill in the blank).

In some things all would agree that entitlement should be given. For instance, a President of the USA is entitled to very serious protection from harm through the Secret Service. Another entitlement given in our Constitution is the right to representation (counsel) in a courtroom.

A phrase gets thrown around when a child steals something that really isn't theirs and people will say the child felt "entitled to have that" even if it wasn't theirs to begin with. We adults sometimes think we are entitled to things that we may not be entitled to but need to earn.

So far, I've been able to avoid politics, and I will continue to do so! Phewww! I am instead going to move us to the spiritual realm. Are we entitled to Heaven? Are we entitled to salvation? Are we entitled to live our lives the way we want to with no regard for eternity or God or responsibility for our actions and yet still expect to live eternally with the God who loves me completely?

The short answer to the above questions is NO! The longer answer is forthcoming. In Eph. 2:1ff it says, "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Satan), the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient...But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions...it is by grace you have been saved...For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

The Scripture above clearly indicates that we are not entitled to Heaven, salvation, or a life lived like we want with expectation that all this awaits us. It is by grace, so it means that God provided the way for us to obtain the blessings of a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. We should be eternally grateful, for without Him we obtain eternity without His presence—Hell.

Thank You God for Your grace and mercy!

Love you all in Jesus!

Pastor Dave

