

# The MESSENGER

Rev. Michelle Forsyth

989-826-5521 or 989-903-5264

October, 2021 Vol. 10.21

*News from Around the Congregation*

Mio United Methodist Church

1101 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St, Mio, MI 48647

989-826-5598

## CHURCHILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### ANNUAL APPLE PIE SALE

**\$7.00 per pie**



**\*Double Crust**

**\*Crumb Crust**

**\*Sugar Free**

**\*\*\* Deadline for Orders: Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*\* Pies must be paid for at time of order.**

O;...See Marlene to order Pies.

**Orders available at Mio United Methodist Church  
Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> about 2:00 pm**

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### ORDER FORM:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Double Crust**

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Crumb Crust**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sugar Free**

**Total Pies \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7 = Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## IMPORTANT!!!

***AD COUNCIL has been rescheduled to Monday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. All members should try to attend.***

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## DIRECT \$\$\$\$

The Direct \$\$\$ thermometer now stands at \$30,000 plus. Keep those Family Fare receipts coming. You must use the Glen's or Family Fare card to get credit.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHARGE CONFERENCE** is fast approaching and there is a lot of work to do. Please get the forms for your work area of the church to Marlene by October 17<sup>th</sup>. They must be sent to the Conference office by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

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## UPCOMING CHARGE CONFERENCE

**At West Branch UMC**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021**

**SPRC -2:00 pm**

**Church Conference - 3:15 pm**

**All Members are welcome to attend.**

## ADOPT-A-COP MINISTRY

The mission of Love In the Name of Christ is to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ.

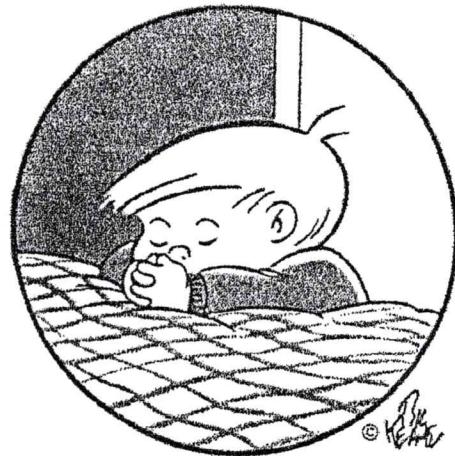
As one of the partner churches we, Mio UMC, have a gap ministry of lending medical equipment to those in our community who are in need.

The partner churches with Love, INC now have been invited to take the name of one of our Sheriff's Deputies and State Troopers to pray for them and send cards of concern and encouragement as they confront verbal attacks and threats on the job in their attempt to keep our community safe.

As followers of Jesus, we can show support and encourage them with prayers, cards and even dropping of snacks, treats, etc. as additional ways to show our support.

If you would like to join us in this important ministry and receive a name, please call Barb Butler at 989-390-6617.

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Make me be good. And if you don't get through to me the first time, please keep tryin' 'til I answer."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

## **Missions Report**

**October 2021**

Our Soup and Pie event on September 18<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Those at the event donated \$605 for the pleasure of eating a choice of three soups and cold slaw and some delicious pies. Thanks to the many folks who came in to help and to eat. While the numbers eating in was down slightly, we had many carry out orders. God always blesses us with enough food even though we have no idea how many we'll be feeding.

The proceeds will be sent to the Rafiki Foundation for child support for our two orphans, Moses, 13 years and Cossam 19 years old. Cossam will be taking his Malawi Secondary Competence Exams this fall. After graduation these exam scores will determine what additional school training will be available for Cossam. Rafiki underwrites the graduates continuing education and encourages these efforts. Please pray for both Cossam and Moses to grow Spiritually and educationally.

## **OCTOBER MISSION FOCUS**

### **Shoebox Season is underway**

Operation Christmas Child is our opportunity to give a Christmas gift and the message of Jesus Christ to a needy child here in the US and around the world. You can make a difference in the lives of children who would not have a gift at Christmas time or the opportunity to hear about the one who gave the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

Plastic shoe boxes will be available in Fellowship Hall for you to pick up to fill with goodies. Just pick Boy or Girl and a brochure that gives age suggestions for the items appropriate to fill the box. Dollar stores or Walmart are great places to find items for your shoebox. OCC asks for a \$9 donation to cover shipping and handling. I suggest that those of you who won't be filling a shoebox but want to participate, donate money to cover expenses. All monetary donations so designated during October will sent to OCC. All boxes must be at the church by mid-November.

Thanks, Susan Hegel



August 30, 2021

Hello Church Friends,

How time flies! I thought I wrote to you in July, but it appears I didn't, so you are getting a "summer's end" report this month! The Bible refers to time in many ways: the Psalmist speaks of **"times of trouble,"** as well as **praising and trusting in the Lord "at all times."** Ecclesiastes 3:1 declares, "There is a time for everything..."

I hope you have all enjoyed your summer time, vacation time, garden and canning time, and now heading-back-to-school time!

The Love INC Clearinghouse has heard a lot about **"times of trouble,"** especially this past month. We made connections in July-August for church volunteers to help fix two hot water heaters, give many rides, pick up or deliver furniture, help with food, and give budget coaching for 2 families overwhelmed with debt.

Many of our partner churches participate with Churches Assisting Neighbors (CAN) who have helped the past two months with bills for septic, water, propane and electric. CAN also helped to save one family from a deplorable living situation by purchasing power cords for a used camper they had saved up for, and kept another from homelessness by helping with the rent after she lost her job due to illness. We thank His Love Family Resources for providing school supplies and underclothes for another family. (Love INC assists CAN by hearing the stories and verifying the needs before referring them.)

**A time to praise:** Many of us really have no idea what living on the edge of nothing; no family or resources, is really like and while it's sometimes sad to hear the stories, we are so glad that *thanks to your financial support and prayers, we can be here to listen, share the love of God and pray with people.* One lady was a little embarrassed, but asked me today to pray for the return of her missing cat! (Which I gladly did.)

We praise God for our partner church ministries like the Clothing and Bedding pantries at **Comins Community Church**; the Medical Equipment pantry and Grief Share at **Mio United Methodist**, the Firewood Ministry and Furniture delivery at **Fairview Mennonite**, the Food pantries at **St. Mary Catholic** and **St. Bartholomew Episocopal** churches and Coats for Kids at **Tri Point Church of God**. **New Hope Assembly of God** is working at renewing their Personal Care pantry. **Living Water Lutheran** assists a lot with the Love INC Transportation Ministry, as do many from the other churches. How wonderful that we are working together at ways to "be doers of the Word, and not hearers only!"

We praise God for healthy ReCreations Shoppe sales and for the chance to help so many consignors (close to 50 now!) earn extra income, as well as offer people a place to find furniture, hand-made gifts and unique repurposed items as well as art, plants and many other fun things. We hope you can stop in on Thursdays -Saturdays, 10-3pm to check it out!

**Time to trust God:** would you please pray and ask God if He would have you participate in any of these opportunities?

- Love INC Board member (1x month for 1 1/2 hours)
- A driver in the Transportation ministry (1 - 2x a month)
- A home repair person (serve alone or with others, occas.)
- **A caller for the new "We Care" ministry** (daily or weekly short calls to a homebound or elderly person with few family and friends to make sure they're okay)

- Teach something at ReCreations Shoppe that you love to do.
- Do you enjoy writing cards or letters? Cooking/Baking/Menu planning? Opportunities are only limited by your creativity and willingness! Could you help someone fill out forms for various needs? Enjoy helping children learn? There's a great need for teachers in our schools this year. Perhaps there are ways we can help. If you know how, let me know.
- Be on the Love INC Prayer Team - please send your email address to me at [loveincoc@gmail.com](mailto:loveincoc@gmail.com). We'll pray for all needs that come in from our community.

A time to give thanks.... ***"I thank my God every time I remember you."*** Phil. 1:3

Thank you for reading through this letter today, for sharing it, for participating as God leads you as a *volunteer of your church* in ministry with Love INC, and for praying for all of us as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a broken world.



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

**Laurie Diller**

Love INC Executive Director

[loveincoc@gmail.com](mailto:loveincoc@gmail.com)

989-848-2020



## **October 2021 update about Church Separation, WCA and the Global Methodist Church**

Since a few more months have passed and several people have asked, here is what's happening:

**Church Separation** - The August 2021 date for General Conference was cancelled due to Covid travel restrictions. About 350 of the 830 delegates must come from outside the US, the majority from Africa. In February 2021, a decision was needed and no solution was seen at that time regarding expected restrictions so the General Conference was officially delayed until August 2022. As of now, this is still the expectation. I recently have seen information that some kind of hybrid or virtual version would be used if needed, so the prospect of holding this meeting is good. All this to say that until a General Conference is held, rule changes to allow for an amicable separation cannot be issued. A few Michigan churches left last year under the old rules, but it was very costly. Most wanting to leave prefer to wait until 2022.

**Global Methodist Church (GMC)** - This is the name selected by a leadership team for the new "Traditional" Methodist Church. This new denomination does not legally exist right now, but many preparations are under way. You can see many details at <https://globalmethodist.org/>. All the needed elements for launching in September 2022 are in place. The September date anticipates that the UMC General Conference will be held on time, and that that legislation following the "Protocol of Separation" advocated by key leaders from all sides of the divide have pledged to follow and advocate, will be adopted.

**WCA** - The Wesleyan Covenant Association was formed in 2017 after a contentious 2016 General Conference that confirmed a big divide in the UMC over Biblical Authority regarding key doctrinal issues including the definition of marriage. The purpose of the WCA was to be an advocate for Traditional understandings within the UMC, especially in expectation of a 2019 Special General Conference that would attempt a resolution. The 2019 General Conference had a complex outcome. Yes, 53% of UMC delegates voted to retain a traditional doctrine. However, it became clear very quickly that the majority of US Bishops would begin a program of calculated disobedience to a few key elements of the Discipline, particularly regarding qualifications for ministry. I am often asked why a Bishop can break such an important rule and not get removed. The sad truth is that the very foundation of the UMC had an expectation that, in particular, leaders were inherently trustworthy and that no elaborate sanctioning process would ever be needed. These facts, coupled with lifetime appointment, have had this unusual result. We now have a dysfunctional church.

As a result of this dysfunction, the WCA transitioned from a renewal movement within the UMC to the implementor of a new denomination. The first priority today of the WCA is to insure the passage of Protocol legislation in 2022. The second priority is to be the legal entity through which funding and activity can be done until the Global Methodist Church is launched in 2022. The third priority is to be a source of information and training so that every individual UMC member and every individual UMC congregation is fully and openly informed about their options when the ability to leave the UMC to join the GMC becomes available in September 2022.

**Upcoming Event**. The WCA has local chapters in all the UMC Annual Conference including in Michigan. Pastor Tom Anderson of Highland UMC (recently renamed Thrive Church) is our chairman and yours truly is a BOD member. We are planning an information event for this December, probably Saturday Dec 4 or 11 at 10:00 AM. It will be mostly virtual so attendance can be pretty easy. We expect one of the National WCA leaders to be the featured speaker and there will be time for lots of questions. Save the date!.

Bob Hegel

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 – Steven Sidebottom  
Kris Vaughn  
6 – Nancy Crane  
21 – John Phillips  
26 – John Smith  
29 – Judy Sharp  
30 – JoAnn Katona

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

12 – Bob & Michelle Forsyth

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Peace  
Charlie Abbott  
Betty Baker  
Nancy Bezemek  
Dan Butler  
Wade Cannon  
Kathy Cay  
Bruce Derrick  
Bob Deyarmond  
Linda Dupree  
Sherry Fletcher  
Roma Galbraith  
Cindy Grushaber  
Cindy Hack  
Glen & Dawn Hall  
Jack Kann  
Gar & Colleen Keith  
Brenda Krug  
Fred & Gladys Lawson  
Jack Locher  
Irene Miller  
Silas Neal  
Laura Nixon  
David Oetting  
John Phillips  
Gail Powers  
Verlene Peters  
Rosiland Reha  
Tony Robacker  
Kay Shumaker  
Carol Slay  
Kim Stitt  
Andrea Walz  
Avery Walz Simone  
Pat Wood  
Jay, Maureen & Anna (Rafiki missionaries)

## SHUT-INS

*At The Brook – Grayling*  
Marge Bryant

## MILITARY

All Armed Forces  
Corey Brown  
River Grushaber  
Whitney Kann

## No Greater Love by Barb Butler

Lord Jesus, You have numbered the very hairs on our head. (Matthew 10:30) You have kept track of all our sorrows. You have placed all of our tears into your bottle. (Psalm 56:8)

Your sensitivity to our pain and loss is beyond anything human language can adequately express. Its depth is beyond words, only the heart can feel and receive it.

How precious You are Lord. How extravagant is your love for your children. As You bind our heart around, we are stronger and built up as a result, not weakened.

You don't just repair – You restore. You make all things new. You call those things that are not as though they were.

Your healing love lifts us up, nourishes us, sustains, strengthens and increases our capacity to respond to You and to those You bring into our lives.

Let our response to everything that happens be "You know Lord, Your care Lord. Your are handling it. Lord." We can trust You and rest in You.



## **GUEST PONDERINGS**

As I prepare the Messenger each month, I get the opportunity to read many special writings of other Christians. I cannot use all of the ones that strike me as a good "filler" item, but while I was looking for something one month I came across the following article written in Ft. Worth, TX.

It just seemed to fit where we are with the United Methodist Church.

I hope you feel as I do as you read it.

Marlene

### **I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH**

I believe in the Church! The church never has been perfect, was not in the great old days of first century Christianity, could not be in the nature of things. It will never be perfect in this world. It is made up of men and women and little children, struggling toward the truth and light.

I believe in the church despite its strange inconsistencies, complacencies, limitations, and handicaps. It is the only institution in the world that provides a place where human beings can come together to worship God. It is the only institution we know that provides for the whole family the spiritual and social needs from childhood to old age.

I do not believe in the present church as much as I believe in the church that is to come, but my belief in the church of the present is such as to lead me to invest my life in it and to find an immense satisfaction in a ministry that has never attained my ideal. But my ministry is within the church and for the church that the church may minister all humanity.

I believe the church can only save its life by losing it for Christ's sake. The Church is a means, a road, and the road to heaven needs mending.

It is a school, a comradeship. It is an agency of the Spirit, an instrument of the Eternal. It has changed through the passing years and will continue to change. It will make mistakes. It may fail in dreadful crises only to emerge again to conquer when all seems lost.

Yes, I believe in the church with all its frailties. I love the church for what it may yet achieve in the long, long vista of the coming centuries.

---Haltom Road Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, TX



# October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 AM Worship 26	6:00 PM UMW 27	2:00 PM Grief Share 28	10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Membership Class 29		10:00 AM Mini-Workshop 1	2
9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Trustees 3		2:00 PM Grief Share 5	10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Membership Class 6	7	8	9
9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM UMM 10	5:30 PM Garden Club 11	2:00 PM Grief Share 12	10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 13	14	15	16
9:30 AM Worship 17	7:00 PM Ad Council 18	2:00 PM Grief Share 19	10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Prayer Bears 20	21	22	23
9:30 AM Worship 24	6:00 PM UMW 25	2:00 PM Grief Share 26	10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 27	28	29	30
9:30 AM Worship 31				4	5	6