

The MESSENGER

Rev. Michelle Forsyth
989-826-5521 or 989-903-5264
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News from Around the Congregation

Mio United Methodist Church
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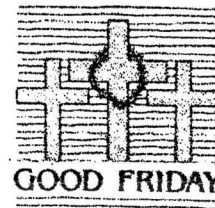
HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Palm Sunday, April 10th
"God Moves to the Cross"



Maundy Thursday Service
April 14th at 6:00 pm
Seder Meal



County-wide Good Friday Service
April 15th at Noon
at Mio UMC

EASTER SERVICES, April 17th



Sunrise Service at 8:00 am
Coffee Hour to follow service
Easter Worship Service
"God Moves Out of the Tomb"



Living in northern Michigan is truly an incredible gift. A few weeks ago, an eagle flew overhead as I entered Churchill for worship. I stood there in amazement and thanked God for the experience. Every time I see an eagle in flight, I consider myself very fortunate. In the words of John Denver, "I know he'd be a poor man if he never saw an eagle fly."

John Denver is one of my favorite artists. I am especially fond of his song, *Rocky Mountain High*. The song is about an unnamed man who "walks in quiet solitude in the forest seeking grace in every step he takes."

For me, music has a way of inspiring my spirit. I may not be musically inclined, but I make a 'joyful noise' when the lyrics of a song speak to my heart. For example, Charles Wesley's hymn, *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*. Now, Charles Wesley was musically inclined, and WOW, he didn't disappoint.

Charles Wesley penned over 6,500 hymns in his lifetime. Also, he preached frequently. It is not surprising that many of the hymns in the United Methodist Hymnal are as much a sermon as a song. So, hymns are not only musical, but they are also theological.

Charles Wesley's heart and mind were deeply steeped in Scripture. It is no surprise that his Easter hymn preaches the Resurrection. Yet, it also teaches us about sin, atonement, intimacy with Christ, justification, sanctification, and glorification. And it does so with elegant rhyme and melody.

The third verse skillfully paraphrases 1 Corinthians 15:55 while also capturing truth from Romans 6:10, "The death he died, he died to sin once and for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God." One victorious death to end the reign of death over humanity. Jesus' death crushed once and for all the serpent's lie of you will not surely die. Jesus the Christ proclaims in truth to all who call upon his name: *You will not surely die!* And so, on Easter, we look to the east and sing joyously in the house of the Lord. "Lives again, our glorious King." He is risen! He is risen, indeed. And guess who was the first one to tell everyone Christ had risen?

One of my favorite hymns is *In the Garden*, also known as *I Come to the Garden Alone*. Using our sanctified imaginations, we can visualize Mary Magdalene recognizing the risen Christ on Easter morning. When we sing this hymn, we are invited to enter into the personal joy of Mary as she enters the garden tomb and is the first to witness Jesus' Resurrection—a joy "none other has ever known."

So, whatever hymn or song moves your spirit on Easter morning, rejoice and "lift up your voice and sing eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!" And as always, I am incredibly grateful to be on this life journey with all of you.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,

Michelle Forsyth

UPDATE ON UMC GENERAL CONFERENCE DELAY

Recent developments regarding the UMC General Conference delay and the expected church separation.

Regular readers of the Mio UMC newsletter will know that our international denomination, the United Methodist Church, has developed a growing divide over Biblical understandings, recently accentuated by the definition of marriage. In early 2019, a group of sixteen recognized leaders within the UMC came together and issued a document labeled "A Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation". This plan was endorsed by the many advocacy groups within the UMC from all sides of the debate. The plan provides specific, uniform steps that allow any UMC Church to leave the UMC and join a specific new Methodist denomination. The needed action for implementation of this plan was for this plan become available in the form of specific amendments to the UMC Book of Discipline. Any such amendments require that the General Conference meet and vote. The expected Conference was to be held in August of 2020. Because of Covid restrictions, 2020 was delayed to 2021 by the authorized managers, the **Commission on General Conference**. In early 2021, the Commission again called for a delay until August 2022.

In early March of 2022, much to the surprise of most Methodists, the Commission again delayed the General Conference until August 2024. Many observers believe that this delay is the result of ungraceful intentions by a few key leaders.

In the period between January 2019 and March 2022, the new "traditional" denomination has been taking steps to be launched. By about September 2021, a name, Global Methodist Church (GMC), a Provisional Book of Doctrines and Disciplines, and a Transitional Leadership Council have come into existence, all anticipating a 2022 UMC General Conference, Protocol adoption, a launch of the GMC, and the beginning of churches migrating to the GMC for the next several years.

With the General Conference delay, the GMC leaders have discerned that the GMC cannot wait until 2024 to launch, and further, that methods other than Protocol provisions must be used to allow church migrations.

On May 1, 2022, the Global Methodist Church will come into legal existence and the first members of this new denomination will be the Transitional Leadership Council. At once, these leaders will have the authority to admit existing churches from the UMC as well as a few independent compatible churches into the GMC.

Presently on an international level, the Council of Bishops of the UMC and leaders of the GMC are negotiating a "model separation agreement" for churches which can be used with the existing provisions of the UMC Book of Discipline in ¶2548.2. This section has wide latitude, so it is hoped that Bishops across the denomination will accept such a model agreement, but they are under no obligation to do so. Fortunately for Michigan, Bishop Bard seems very keen to help draft such a model and be among those who will follow its provisions.

The GMC leaders expect most of the Protocol provisions will be provided in this new model agreement. Thus we wait patiently for such an agreement to be announced by the negotiators, perhaps as soon as May 1, 2022 when the GMC launches.

Bob Hegel

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 - Jon DeVooght
3 - Barb Butler
8 - Ken Lantz

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

20 - Glen & Dawn Hall

PRAYER CONCERNS

Charlie & Barb Abbott
Jill Allen
Irene Burger
Reggie Carr
Tonya DeGryse
Chester DeVooght
Nancy Dercher
Kirk Derrick
Kevin Dunn
Gerald & Joslin (missionaries)
Glen & Dawn Hall
Glen Hall, Jr.
Rev. John Kasper D.S.
Mary May
Craig Meyers
Dale Neff
Marna Olds
Angie Rizzardi
Sativa
Marty Smith
Kim Stitt
Taylor & Jackson
Andrea Walz
Avery Walz Simone

SHUT-INS

At The Brook - Grayling
Marge Bryant

MILITARY

All Armed Forces
Corey Brown
River Grishaber
Whitney Kann

TWO WORLDS:

WHAT IF OR WHAT IS

Lord, we are your children and we need to recognize that there are two worlds and we need to decide which one we want to live in. One world is stable and the other defeats us.

In the *What is World* we walk by faith in Christ.

The *What If World* is the unsure world of questions, wonderings, and instability because circumstances change at any given moment. Our mind can be standing on the Word of God and then be tossed into the sea of doubt and shakiness the next. But the Lord assures us in Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever." He does not change, no matter what is happening in the world.

As believers, we are called to live in the *What Is World* of biblical truth of who we are in Christ.

In this *What is World* "we are in Christ and a new creation in Him, the old has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come." II Corinthians 5:17.

In this *What Is World* "we walk by faith not sight." II Corinthians 5:7. We must believe that "The Lord is Our Shepherd and we shall not want." Psalm 23:1

We can live securely as firm and strong children in the *What Is World* of who we are in Christ and in the truth of His Word.

Submitted by Barbara Butler

DIRECT \$\$\$\$ now stands at \$67,000.00.
Keep those Family Fare receipts coming! When we get to \$150,000.00 we will receive another \$1000.00.

**NO MORE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
NOW
UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH**

With the split in the United Methodist Church there has been a question about the United Methodist Women's organization: What will happen to the UMW because it will more than just one denomination?

The first change will be the name. The United Methodist Women will now be "United Women of Faith." Most everything else will stay the same and the organization will now serve any denomination. Any other changes will be noted in future articles.

A NEW ROOF

As presented in last month's newsletter, the bid for the new church roof is \$37,500. A \$500 deposit has been made to hold this bid. With matching funds from the Mabel Hager Fund of \$18,750 and the \$500 deposit, we must fund \$18,250 for the roof to be done.

At this point \$3330 has been given to the project. We must raise \$14,920 by May 31st for the contractor to start the roof.

Please pray about how you can help with donations made to the church. Be sure to mark "roof" on your check or envelope.

LENT ENVELOPES

The Lent Envelopes attached to this newsletter are for your use to help others. All donations collected will be used by the Mission Team for Christmas gifts and food for those in need in Oscoda County.

HYMN HAPPY

- The Dentist's Hymn:
"Crown Him with Many Crowns"
The TV Weatherman's Hymn:
"There Shall Be Showers of Blessings"
The Contractor's Hymn:
"The Church's One Foundation"
The Tailor's Hymn:
"Holy, Holy, Holy"
The Golfer's Hymn:
"There is a Green Hill Far Away"
The Politician's Hymn:
"Standing on the Promises"
The Optometrist's Hymn:
"Open My Eyes that I May See"
The IRS Hymn:
"All to Thee"
The Gossiper's Hymn:
"Pass It On"
The Electrician's Hymn:
"Send the Light"
The Shopper's Hymn:
"Sweet By and By"

--- Anonymous

MISSION REPORT

April 2022

Our Mission focus for February was Henderson Settlement and we are blessed to have doubled our giving in 2022 and report a total of \$325 given to bless this ministry. Thank you all for your generosity.

We had a few people interested in a trip to volunteer at Henderson Settlement in Kentucky but with increases in gas prices and examination of the type of work that is needed there, it was decided to look for another opportunity to serve. When we have found a viable opportunity, I will let everyone know.

The Mission Focus for March was Camp Michigamme, and donations are still being received for that ministry at this writing.

Our Mission Focus for April will be for the support of missionary Randy Hildebrandt. Randy oversees the God's Country Cooperative Parish. This ministry is in the Eastern Upper Peninsula and is comprised of seven small Methodist churches spread over 250 miles. Randy has his hands full ministering and working with this active parish where he and his family have served for 13 years. We here at Mio have supported Randy many years and have been able to send him \$500 per year. Let's bless Randy with a generous and grateful donation of support for his work out of Newberry. We will send all the money we collect that is designated for Randy Hildebrandt at the end of April.

I spoke in regard to **help for Ukraine** in the Moment for Mission on Sunday, March 13. I will copy that here for the benefit of those unable to be at church that Sunday. "In light of the present and tragic situation in Ukraine I've been thinking that many of you might want to donate funds for relief for the Ukrainian people. There are multiple agencies that are raising funds for this purpose and it's possible you've already given to one of these ministries. I just want to let you know that you can give through the church if you would like to, either by giving to UMCOR or to Samaritan's Purse. UMCOR is working in Poland, currently helping with the needs of the fleeing Ukrainian families. Franklin Graham's organization, Samaritan's Purse, is on the ground in both Poland and Ukraine. They are in the process of setting up an Emergency Field Hospital on the outskirts of Lviv in Western Ukraine." You can give to either of these organizations via Mio UMC as long as this war continues.

A gentle reminder for the benefit of the counters please designate on your check or envelope where you want your donation to go.

Thanks Church,

Susan Hegel, Mission Chrm.

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 AM Worship	28 1:00 PM UMW	29 2:00 PM Grief Share	30 1:00 PM Lent Bible Study	31	1 9:00 AM Office Open	2
3 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Trustees	4	5 2:00 PM Grief Share	6 1:00 PM Lent Bible Study	7	8 9:00 AM Office Open	9
10 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM UMM	11 7:00 PM Ad Council	12 2:00 PM Grief Share	13	14 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	15 9:00 AM Office Open 12:00 PM Good Friday Service	16
17 8:00 AM Sunrise Service 8:45 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Worship	18	19 2:00 PM Grief Share	20 1:00 PM Prayer Bears	21	22 9:00 AM Office Open	23
24 9:30 AM Worship	25 1:00 PM UMW	26 2:00 PM Grief Share	27	28	29 9:00 AM Office Open	30