

Mio United Methodist Church  
1101 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Mio, MI 48647  
989-826-5598

Rev. Michelle Forsyth  
989-826-5521 or 903-5264  
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GriefShare is a network of thousands of grief recovery support groups meeting around the world. GriefShare is program with direction and purpose. With GriefShare you will learn how to walk the journey of grief and be supported on the way. It is a place where grieving people find healing and hope.

**FALL SESSION – 13 WEEKS**

**THURSDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**

**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**At**

**MIO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**We will wear masks and distance ourselves according to the orders from the Governor's Office.**

If you have any questions or want to pre-register please call Barb Butler at 989-390-6617.

## Priceless Treasures

One of my favorite things to do is to walk along the shores of the Great Lakes looking for Petoskey stones and beach glass. When I find a unique piece of beach glass or a beautiful Petoskey stone I immediately perk up and continue searching for hidden treasures that have washed up on the shore. I scour the beach for hours enjoying every second of the journey.

Sometimes when I am having a demanding day, I set out to the beach where I know I can escape from the trials and troubles of this world. However, I remind myself that every treasure I pick up and slip into my pocket to take home, it had a long and rough journey before it washed up on the shore.

Petoskey stones were once living coral polyps. The center of each polyp was the mouth and contained tentacles that reached out for food. The coral polyps thrived with other marine life in tropical reefs, over a million years ago during the Devonian period. So, the coral polyps which were once a thriving creation of God are still amazingly beautiful even though they are lifeless. Yet, even though they are lifeless, they still have value because they help the beach glass obtain beauty.

Beach glass acquires its beauty by being thrashed around by the rocks in the water. A once entire bottle capsizes in the turbulent waters and breaks. The pieces are then scattered immersed in the cold deep waters going through a transformation that smoothes the rough edges and rounds off the glass being turned and shaped into something beautiful.

A few years ago, on Bob's birthday, we decided to take a ride up north and spend the day in Tawas. I wanted to go to Branham's Jewelry to see their new store, and as I expected it was naturally stunning. Of course, I wasn't planning on purchasing jewelry; I just wanted to see the store. However, I spotted a Petoskey stone charm for Pandora bracelets. Also, beach glass charms too! Both pieces are beautiful and exquisite. People pay big bucks for these treasures that had at one time were thriving and had a purpose.

Friends, sometimes we may feel the trials and troubles of this world are pointless and that our lives lack purpose. As Christians, we live in a world that is dark. But scripture tells us that through Christ we have peace. God never abandoned Jesus, and Jesus never left humanity. In Christ, we have the trusted assurance that we will be unshakable, and at peace. Sometimes, it may seem as though we are thrashing, to and fro tossed up against rocks and drowning in a godless world. But we are never abandoned, never forsaken rather being shaped and molded into a beautiful piece treasured by God. Like the beach glass and Petoskey stones, we are priceless treasures in God's eyes.

So, sisters and brothers in Christ whatever season you are in always remember that you are a priceless treasure, ransomed by the blood of Jesus. 2 Corinthians 4:7 says, "But this beautiful treasure is contained in us—cracked pots made of earth and clay, so that the transcendent character of this power will be clearly seen as the coming of God, not from us." You will always and forever be a priceless treasure.

Your Servant in Christ,

*Michelle Forsyth*

## GETTING IN TOUCH

If there is an emergency or you need one-to-one pastoral care, please call Pastor Michelle at 989-903-5264 or email her at [pastormichelleforsyth@gmail.com](mailto:pastormichelleforsyth@gmail.com). She will be staying at the parsonage Sunday through Thursday.

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## SPRC Staff Parish Relations Committee

The SPRC will have its first meeting August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. All committee members are asked to please be present as this is the first meeting with Rev. Michelle.

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## FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is currently on hold because St. Bart's has not reopened their doors. The food currently on hand was taken to St. Mary's Catholic Food Pantry.

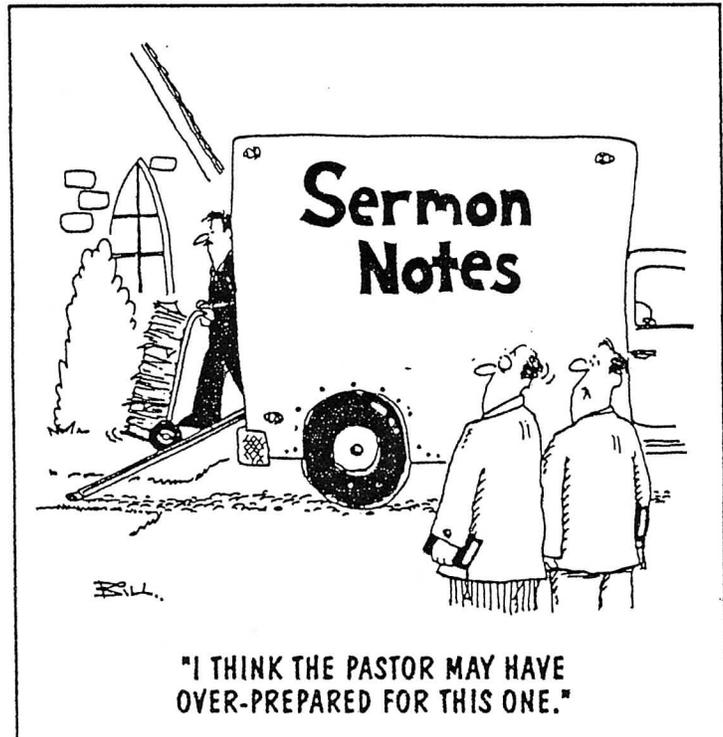


## DIRECT \$\$\$\$\$\$

Another milestone has been reached. The thermometer for Direct \$\$\$ is now at \$92,000.00 and heading for \$150,000. Great work everyone. **Keep those complete Family Fare receipts coming!**

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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 24<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT DECEMBER. THAT DEADLINE WILL BE ANNOUNCED.**



## FAMILY BOOKSHELF AND GIFTS

Volunteers are needed to help with the store in Fairview. If you are interested call 989-848-5400 for more information.

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*Celebration of Life for Tom Klacking* will be held Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 4 pm at Holy Family Parish Hall on W. Peters Rd. It is accessible from Campbell Rd or M-33 south of Rose City.

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*Prayer is a weapon that should never be concealed,*

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**HAPPY CRAFTERS** will meet Wednesday thru Friday August 26, 27, and 28. See Carol-Lynn VanNorman if you have questions.

## THANKSGIVING

*"Thank God in everything (no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks) for this is the will of God for you (who are) in Christ Jesus."*

I Thessalonians 5:18

Paul is not teaching that we should thank God for everything that happens to us, but in everything that happens. Evil does not come from God, so we should not thank Him for the evil, but thank Him for His presence with us and for the good He will accomplish through the distress.

*"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."*

Romans 8:28

Our thankfulness tells the Lord that no matter what we are experiencing - we trust Him to bring us through into His perfect will for us.

Submitted by Barb Butler



## #2 In the Series- Progressive and Traditional viewpoints

Last month we gave a short history of the UMC and how its makeup and viewpoints have changed in the recent 30-40 years, especially the last 5 years. I said that the US members have a roughly 50-50 split between progressive and traditional. Let me expand on that a little more.

A Traditional viewpoint has at least these key elements:

1. The Bible is God's inspired word and its meaning does not change over time. Its fair to say that among Traditional views there are some differences in interpretation. One example is the creation event. There may or may not be some level of evolution, but humans did not evolve all the way from single cells organisms.
2. God made men and women different. The Biblical definition of marriage is one man and one woman.
3. God's plan for the future includes Jesus returning to earth and participating in a final judgment for every person who ever lived. Those who accept Jesus' offer of salvation will live in the new eternal, perfect kingdom. Those who do not accept Jesus' offer will die a second, permanent death, separating them from God forever. God saw fit to let humans make that choice through the minds He gave them.
4. God has eternally existed in the form of the "trinity" which means He is Father God, Jesus who lived as a human for about 30 years, and the Holy Spirit which God implants in every believing person to accomplish His inspiration of human events.
5. Every human is imperfect and prone to unholy behavior and thoughts. Faithful believers can call on the Holy Spirit through prayer to resist temptation, and be redeemed by faith in Jesus when they fail.
6. The most important purpose of the organized church is to gather for common worship of our Triune God and to teach the truth found in the Bible, so individuals can understand their purpose and relationship to God.
7. Life begins at conception. All lives are precious to God.

A Progressive viewpoint has at least these key elements:

1. The Bible's meaning changes over time and must be understood in agreement with changes in culture and human behavior and understanding.
2. People with same gender attraction should be allowed to express such attractions including same gender marriages.
3. A principle purpose of the Church is to gather activists for common action on social issues.
4. Other religious beliefs are equally valid in their understanding of God, creation, life purpose, and teaching of proper social customs.
5. Individual freedoms are just as important and valid as religious doctrine and teachings.

In reality, many people have shades of gray on some of these key elements.

These viewpoints describe the beliefs of individuals. Each individual must make decisions on their desire for common fellowship with other individuals who do not hold identical views.

A Traditional Fellowship most often believes that members need to have common Bible based beliefs in order to provide proper common worship and teachings.

A Progressive Fellowship is more likely to believe that every member should have very wide latitude in beliefs and practices. Some adherents even argue that such wide ranging viewpoints are valuable and useful.

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

1 Gary Sidebottom, Sr  
5 Linda Atherton  
8 Sandy Brown  
18 Will Olsen  
31 Betty Baker

## **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

11 John & Marty Smith  
14 Bob & Susan Hegel  
    Lynn & Roma Galbraith  
24 Scott & Lorri Burzlaff  
31 Larry & Carol-Lynn VanNorman

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Linda Atherton  
Ted Bruckland  
Mike Butler  
Kirk Derrick  
Janet Deyarmond  
JoAnn Dudek  
Glen & Dawn Hall  
Christine Hegel  
Janet Kann  
Terry Kann  
Beth Marcis  
Bill McGlynn  
Sue McLane  
Gloria Phillips  
Lois Phillips  
Brandy Quick  
Rafiki children  
Mason Robbins  
Gregory Schultz  
Harlund Schultz  
Ed Smith  
Jeff Thoms  
Gini VanAntwerp  
Andrea Walz  
Vi Ward  
Diane Winstead  
*Families of Bill Walz (Susan Hegel's nephew)*  
*Sally Galbraith*

## **SHUT-INS**

*At The Brook - Grayling*  
Marge Bryant

*At Wellspring - Fairview*  
Bill McGlynn

## **MILITARY**

Whitney Kann  
Lars Shied

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Prayer Concerns will be printed in the bulletin, monthly list, or newsletter list if it is written on one of the slips in the Ritual of Friendship Pads or called to Barb Butler, 390-6617, during the week for the Prayer Chain. This will insure accurate spelling.

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## **ANSWERED PRAYERS**

Gar Keith was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He was given chemo and radiation treatments. There is no sign of cancer now.

Barb Butler's niece's twin grandsons were born 2 ½ months early, with several health issues that required surgeries and months in the hospital. Caleb and Conor are home and very healthy now.

Irene Miller had hip surgery. It was very successful and she is pain free.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30 AM Worship						2:00 PM Celebration of Life for Tom Klacking
9:30 AM Worship				6:00 PM SPRC 7:00 PM Ad Council		
9:30 AM Worship			1:00 PM Prayer Bears			
9:30 AM Worship	6:00 PM UMW		9:00 AM Happy Crafters	9:00 AM Happy Crafters	9:00 AM Happy Crafters	
9:30 AM Worship						