

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

Rev. Michelle Forsyth
989-826-5521 or 903-5264
March, 2021 Vol. 03.21

GRIEF SHARE

WEEKLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

**Help and encouragement after the death
of a spouse, child, family member or friend.**

March 1st – May 31st

2:00 – 4:00 pm

\$15.00 per Book

**Contact:
Barbara Butler
989-390-6617**

Get Ready!

If someone asked you what is your favorite Holiday, Christmas or Easter, which would you choose? Many of us would choose Christmas. It's named "the most beautiful time of the year" for a reason. The snow, mesmerizing lights, beautifully wrapped gifts under the adorned Christmas tree, and people's generosity make the season special.

Christmas is a joyous, celebratory occasion as we prepare for the birth of Emmanuel. We celebrate that God came down from heaven to share and live life with us. Throughout Christ's short-lived ministry, he taught us to care for one another, to use and share our abilities and our resources with others. He showed us what unconditional love looks like as he ate with sinners and healed the marginalized society or those who society disregarded unworthy because they were suffering from something. Jesus healed demon-possessed persons, beggars, lepers, women suffering from incurable diseases, and those who were being racially discriminated against.

Growing up, Christmas was my favorite season. Yet, now that I am a little older and a bit wiser, Easter is my favorite holiday. It's my favorite because Easter is a reminder that God is creating a new world, new earth that will be pain-free. A world that there will be no suffering, no empty bellies, no incurable diseases, no boundaries, no barriers, no war, no injustice, just joy, and complete peace.

Easter reminds us that Jesus was committed to restoring all peoples, all of creation, to God, and he accomplished his goal when he was crucified for the sins of the world, died, and walked out of the tomb. Death could not keep him from achieving God's perfect plan. Christ defeated death, and because he was victorious, death does not have the final word. The glorious good news is, in and through Christ, we are reconciled with God, and we get to enjoy all the benefits of our inheritance kept for us in heaven.

1 Peter 1:3-5 says, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

We are unsure what heaven will be like, but that joyous, celebratory spirit we feel at Christmas, multiply that by infinity. Friends, when we get to heaven, we will experience eternal joy. Until then, let's prepare our hearts to celebrate the most joyous day of the year, Easter Sunday! So, get ready to shout, "Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!" Be prepared to praise and rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Your humble servant,

Michelle Forsyth

NOTICES:

*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. She will be staying at the parsonage Sunday through Thursday.

AD COUNCIL

- Through the Mabel Hager Fund the following donations and purchases will be funded in the name of Mio United Methodist Church:
 - \$500 to Love INC
 - \$500 to His Love Family Resources
 - \$500 to Lydia's Gate
 - \$500 to Riverhouse Shelter
 - St. Bartholomew Food Pantry
 - Together We Can Food Pantry
 - Grief Share Funding
 - Support of Backpack Program at Mio School
 - Purchase of a bicycle for Love INC's Bicycle Safety Day
 - Funding for a Women's Retreat at the MUMC
 - Purchase of a camera for broadcast of Sunday and other services thru social media
 - Plus other possibilities.
- Dues to the WCA will be caught up for the past 2 years.
- A donation of \$500 will be given by the MUMC to the WCA for such things as postage, etc.

DIRECT \$\$\$\$\$

The total at this time for Family Fare Direct \$\$\$ is \$ 133,000.00. Let's keep working for the next \$17,000.00.

LENTEN ENVELOPES

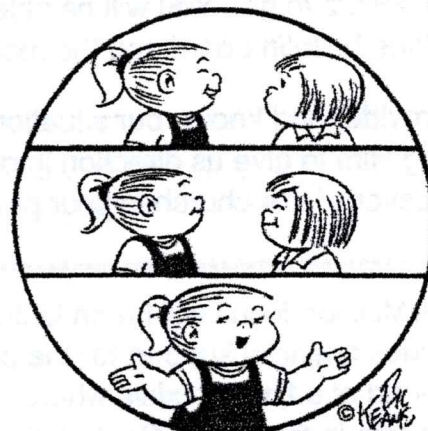
An envelope for a Lenten Offering is included in this newsletter. All giving received will be used for the Adopt-a-Family Project at Christmas.

Put the envelope in the offering plate or mail it to MUMC, 1101 W 8th St, Mio, MI 48647. Your donation will be recorded by the Financial Secretary on your giving statement.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH

Love INC ReCreations Shoppe requests donations of houseplant, anything green, gold, white or springy, books, puzzles and a limited amount of furniture and other household items. Call 848-2020 or visit the Shoppe Thurs. - Sat. from 10am - 3 pm.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"You can't give a smile away.
It always comes back."

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

MISSIONS NEWS

Printed here is the Moment for Mission presented on Valentine's Sunday. It concerns a new giving plan for the Mission program of our church. Thanks for reading about the plan and participating in it.

Susan Hegel, Mission's Chairperson

2-14-21

Good Morning Church,

This is our Mission's Sunday and I want to tell you about a new plan for your financial giving for the support of our Mission outreach program. This has been a difficult year in so many, but it has also been a year that has stretched us in our faith and in finding new ways to express our Christian commitment to our Lord. The mission agenda lacked the funds this year to cover all our commitments. Thankfully, the Mabel Hager fund provided those monies that we lacked in the Mission Budget. I never met Mabel but I'm thankful for her and that she met Jesus. He knew how Mabel's money would make a difference for us in so many ways here at Mio Methodist Church through the years since her passing.

I would like to present this new plan, on behalf of our Mission Committee and as approved by our Administrative Council. This plan would, hopefully, increase an awareness and a desire to participate in the mission program of our church. This is the plan! One of the projects we support, for example Noah's Ark or Lydia's Gate, would be presented on our Mission Sunday. We would describe the Mission and its purpose and how we have financially or otherwise supported it in the past and what our goal is for 2021. We would dedicate each month to a particular project. And all monies collected on that Sunday and in the following couple weeks would be sent directly to that mission at the end of the month. Presently we have put all monies for Missions into the budget and divided it up at the end of the year.

This new plan gives you an option and an opportunity to think about exactly where you would like for your mission dollars to go. You will be able to see a list of all the missions we give to in the newsletter and on a redone bulletin board and the monthly mission project will be listed in the bulletin.

God is our provider and knows our situation and the situation of the dear missions that we give to. We will be trusting Him to give us direction in our goals and provision to do his will. Please keep the mission endeavor of this church in your prayers.

In March, our Mission focus will be on UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This offering provides financial support for the programs aimed at providing food, shelter, and health around the world at a time of crisis wherever it may be happening. Right now, UMCOR Disaster Response Teams in the North, Central, Southwest and Rio Texas Conferences are responding to the crisis there. UMCOR always needs our help and support. Please pray for God's provision for you to give generously to this part of the Mio Methodist Mission Outreach.

Newsletter item

The 2021 August-September General Conference Has Been Delayed Until August 2022

On February 25, 2021 the UMC Commission on General Conference announced there would be no meeting this year due primarily to travel restrictions expected to remain in place, making international travel very expensive and difficult.

A new date in August 2022 has been set, again to be located in Minneapolis. This is the earliest date the legislation to enact "Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation" can be considered.

At this time, there is no reason to believe that this historic action to resolve differences in the UMC will not be enacted in 2022. Spokespersons from both sides of the divide continue to voice support for this needed path to resolution.

The Bishops have also put forth a very brief agenda of uncontroversial legislative items to be voted on by mail in May 2021. These items have to do with operational continuity and especially with the capacity to replace at least some of the 16 Bishops desiring to retire. You can read the details on the UMNEWS website.

As of the writing of this article, none of the advocacy groups, either WCA for the traditionalists or groups representing progressive members, have made any formal announcements about this delay.

My own feeling, based on earlier recommendations and practical limitations, is that the WCA will recommend that individual members, Pastors, Churches, and Conferences remain as members of the UMC. The practical side is that the option to depart without the protocol mechanisms remains cumbersome and expensive. It would also remove voting members at future General Conferences and Annual Conferences where those absent voters might jeopardize the voting strength needed to pass the Protocol legislation.

My own feeling is that for us at Mio Church, this delay does not have a big impact. We "are who we are" and will continue a vital ministry in our community. We can concentrate on our Faith witness and community engagement, and do all we can to be welcoming to all who seek a fellowship of people saved by God's grace through the atoning work of Jesus and the power of the Spirit.

Our challenge will be to overcome a present stigma that our denomination is both in disarray and/or holds beliefs contrary to those of prospective members. Let's make our local witness speak loudly about who we are.

As I now just finished this writing, Bishop Bard broadcast a statement regarding this matter. His remarks are gracious and optimistic. He acknowledges that we do have unreconciled differences and he continues to see a separation coming.

See you soon. Bob Hegel

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4 - Irene Miller
12 - Dawn Hall
16 - Scott Burzlaff
30 - Kathy Dudek

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NONE

PRAYER CONCERNS

Charlie Abbott
Kathy Cay
Roma Galbraith
Gar Keith
Gladys & Fred Lawson
Shar Lee
Rosemary Locher
David Oetting
LaNita Olsen
Rosiland Reha
Andrea Walz

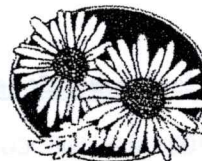
Families of Dan & Marilyn Peterson
Ted Burkland

SHUT-INS

At The Brook - Grayling
Marge Bryant

MILITARY

All Armed Forces
Corey Brown
Whitney Kann
Lars Shied



Many
Thanks

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your generous love offering I received on Valentine's Day! I am incredibly blessed to have the honor of being your pastor. It is an incredible blessing doing ministry with all of you. So, thank you for being Christ's disciples and allowing me to journey with you in this pilgrimage of life. God bless each of you and know you are loved.

Blessings,
Michelle

Irish Blessing

*May there always be work
For your hands to do.
May your purse always hold
A coin or two.
May the sun always shine
On your windowpane.
May a rainbow be certain
To follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend
Always be near you.
May God fill your heart
With gladness to cheer you.*

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Pittsburgh, PA

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30 AM Worship	1 2:00 PM Grief Share	2	3 4:30 PM Lenten Bible Study	4	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Trustees	8 2:00 PM Grief Share	9	10 4:30 PM Lenten Bible Study	11	12	13 12:00 AM Daylight Savings Time
14 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM UMM	15 2:00 PM Grief Share	16 3:00 PM Worship	17 1:00 PM Prayer Bears 4:30 PM Lenten Bible Study	18	19	20
21 9:30 AM Worship	22 2:00 PM Grief Share 6:00 PM UMW	23	24 9:00 AM Happy Crafters 4:30 PM Lenten Bible Study	25 9:00 AM Happy Crafters	26 9:00 AM Happy Crafters	27
28 9:30 AM Palm Sunday Worship	29 2:00 PM Grief Share	30	31 4:30 PM Lenten Bible Study	1	2	3

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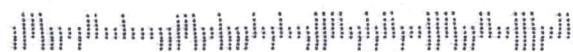
Visit our Web Site at:

www.MioMethodist.org

Also check us out on Facebook

E-mail Address: MioMethodist@gmail.com

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Mio United Methodist Church Mission Statement

As believers in God, thankful for the Father's faithful provision,
The Son's loving sacrifice for our sins, and the Holy Spirit's
Enabling presence in our lives we strive to:

- Worship, serve, and obey God
- Grow closer to God
- Teach the Bible
- Share God's love with others
- Be a community of fellowship and encouragement...

So that all may hear and receive the forgiveness and friendship of God.