

Mio United Methodist Church  
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989-826-5598

Rev. Michelle Forsyth  
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February, 2021 Vol. 01.21

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**HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!**

**WE ARE GOING TO REOPEN FOR WORSHIP!**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> AT 9:30 AM.**

**SEE YOU ALL THERE.**

***MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE REQUIRED.***

***PLEASE HELP ALL OF US STAY SAFE.***



Recently I read an article written by Thom Rainer. If you don't know who Thom Rainer let me shed some light on who he is. He serves as president and CEO of Church Answers and executive director of *Revitalize Network*. For 12 years he was dean at Southern Seminary and president and CEO of Life-Way Christian Resources. As a respected researcher and former pastor, he has written more than 25 books, including many bestsellers, such as *I Am A Church Member* (which I highly recommend reading). So, you might be wondering why I share his biography with you. Well, because I want to emphasize that Thom Rainer knows his stuff.

I will admit, Thom's article will strike a chord with co-vocational pastors and the congregations they serve. He emphasizes the challenges churches will face as we move into 2021. Rainer doesn't hold anything back, explaining "the devastation the pandemic has wreaked among people and organizations."

He gives twelve trends that will affect congregations. One of the twelve trends is the massive growth of the co-vocational ministry. While reading about this particular trend, I noticed Rainer used the term co-vocational, not bi-vocational. Interestingly there is a significant difference.

The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vocatio*, which means a call or summons. So, if vocation means call, the problem is in the prefix. The prefix 'bi' denotes separation or, in other words, dualism. It's what started the idea among church leaders in the fourth century to define things as sacred or secular. It's better to use co-vocation. I appreciate the term co-vocation because, in its raw form, it means together or one. Friends, our two vocations or callings work as one to continue Christ's mission and "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Think about it this way, if you are a disciple, God is calling you to full-time ministry. The two vocations were not separated.

Rainer explains, "the combination of church closures and church withdrawals from denominations will be slightly greater than previous years." That said, some pastors in our denomination will likely face the potential of being co-vocational pastors. So, what does this mean for the life of the church?

Well, it means pastors are going to have to ask for help. Pastors will need to encourage congregational leaders to develop and implement sustainable ministries so that the church's life remains vibrant and bears fruit. Friends, the good news is churches exist because of you! Pastors came and go. What makes a church stay alive and fruitful are you, the members!

As I journey into 2021, I remain very hopeful. I'm confident because I have low expectations. You see, my expectations could get in the way of God's hopes and desires for me. So, God humbly reminds us that, "*Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*" (Proverbs 19:21) Whatever this year brings, and regardless of whether our expectations are met, we can trust in God's truth. We have faith that God's purpose is greater than our expectations. Rest assured, God's purpose will prevail. And as we move into 2021, please know how much I am honored to be journeying with all of you. I am excited to see where God will lead us. I am looking forward to braving the unknown territory with YOU. Your support, love, and guidance make the journey enjoyable!

Yours in Christ,  
Michelle Forsyth

Rainer, Thom. "The Most Notable trends for the Church in 2021." *Outreach Blog*, Outreach Blog, 19 Jan.2021, outreach.com/blog/the-most-notable-trends-for-the-church-in-2021/? utm\_source=OP-ORW-210120.

## 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](mailto:pastormichelleforsyth@gmail.com). She will be staying at the parsonage Sunday through Thursday.

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

The total at this time for Family Fare Direct \$\$\$ is \$ 126,000.00. Just \$ 24,000.00 to go. Keep those sales slips coming!

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## FOOD PANTRY

We are continuing to collect food for the St. Bart's Food Pantry. Bring non-perishable food to church to help fill the box.

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## AD COUNCIL

It has been a long time since the last Ad Council meeting and there is business to take care of. Please try to attend on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

## DURING LENT ...

*Fast from fear;  
Feast on faith.  
Fast from despair;  
Feed on hope.  
Fast from depressing news;  
Feed on prayer.  
Fast from discontent;  
Feast on gratitude.  
Fast from anger and worry;  
Feed on patience.  
Fast from negative thinking;  
Feast on positive thinking.  
Fast from bitterness;  
Feed on love and forgiveness.  
Fast from words that wound;  
Feast on works that heal.  
Fast from gravity;  
Feed on joy and humor.*

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## 2021 CHURCH PHONE

**DIRECTORIES are available in the Fellowship Hall.**

*Donations are accepted to offset the cost.*

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*Joy is the echo of God's life in us.*



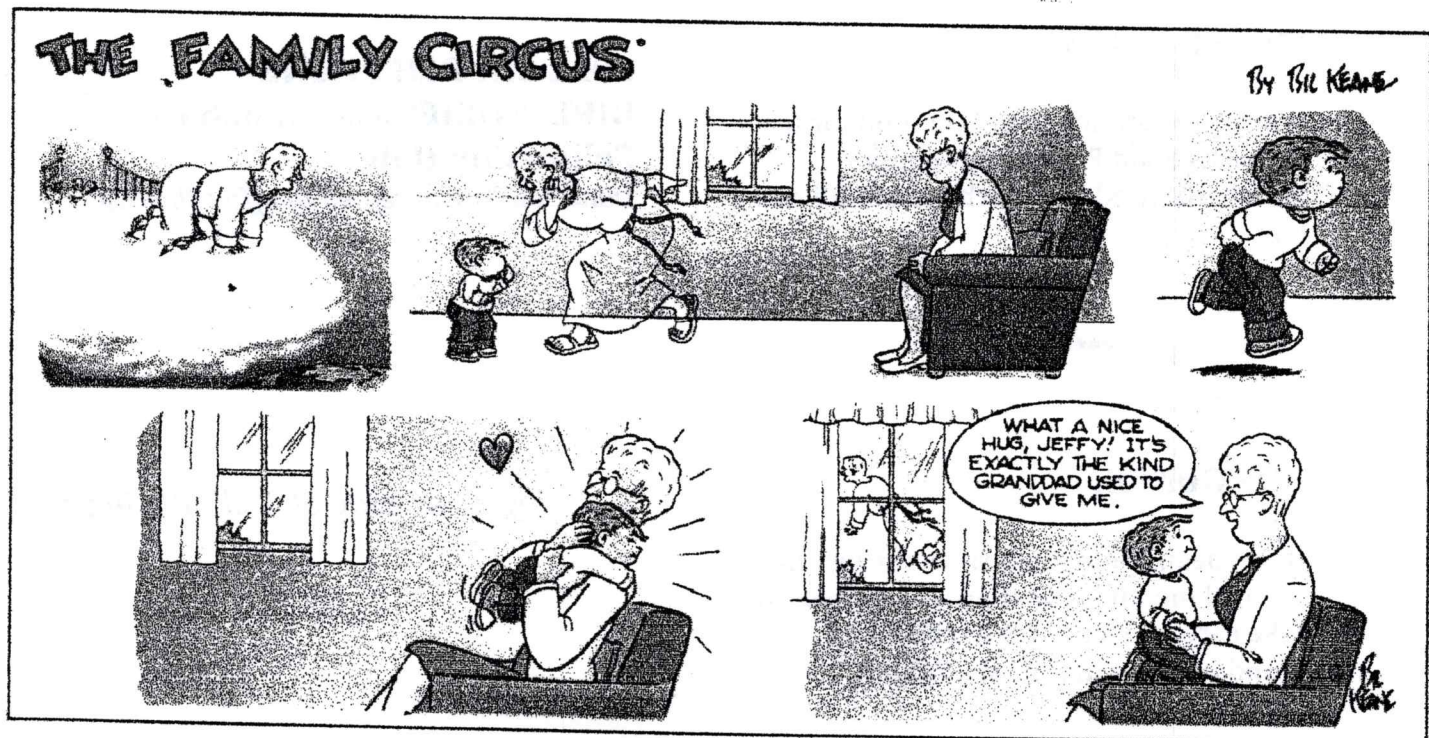
## Mission Message

In these strange times let us all remember that, while we are isolated from one another and those in our community and beyond, the need for compassion and care continues. We may not physically see them but let us pray to the Holy Spirit to give us the eyes to see beyond the physical. How is your neighbor faring? What about that person behind the mask behind or in front of you at the grocery store or the cashier behind the plexiglass? Our opportunities seem limited, but the needs are there and maybe we just must look a little harder, pray a little harder and let the Holy Spirit nudge us a little harder. Amen?

Our Christmas giving to our 9 Adopt a Families went exceptionally well. All the recipients received their gifts and were blessed and thankful. As you can imagine Christmas would not be a very joyous day for these folks if it were not for your generosity. One family was not able to come to the church to pick up gifts and the registrant was not in the county anymore. By God's grace and mercy family members were found who were most grateful to receive needed gifts for the child and adult they were intended for. Please pray for these families. God knows who they are and their needs and will answer our prayers of concern.

We were not able to give food baskets, but we did give each family a gift card to Family Fare and the Missions committee is grateful for a donation from the Mabel Hager Fund that made that possible this year because of a lower than usual Mission's budget.

Thank you all



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
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In spite of the Covid-19 impact on both the Annual conference activities, and the delay of the 2020 General Conference to August 2021, all parties to the agreement for a peaceful separation continue in their support.

Here is a timetable and the events, beginning with the Special Michigan Annual Conference in March 2020

March 2020. Michigan Annual Conference (MAC) meets at Albion College in special session for the purpose of discussing the proposed Separation Agreement announced in January 2020 by a broad coalition of both Traditionalists and Progressives. The Michigan Annual Conference votes overwhelmingly to recommend that the 2020 General Conference consider, debate, and vote on the question of the proposed agreement. The MAC did not vote either for or against the separation agreement, but simply recommended it be raised up for a vote.

May 2020. The MAC cannot meet in person due to Covid 19 so it had a very short virtual meeting to adopt the annual budget and other housekeeping items. No legislative items regarding Church Rules, Separation plans or anything controversial was even discussed.

August 2020. The regular quadrennial General Conference is canceled. The GC commission later announces a plan to hold the GC in August 2021. Contingency plans were announced that would allow any combination of Virtual, hybrid or 100% in person conference to be held.

November 2020. The Michigan UMC Leadership announces a plan to hold the 2021 Michigan Annual Conference in two parts. The first part will be in June and will be mostly virtual, will vote only on "essential" matters and will commission and ordain Pastors. The second part, held in October after the expected General Conference, will likely have a significant debate and voting on the impact of a likely new Traditional Methodist Denomination on Michigan Churches, Pastors and Lay Members.

Looking Ahead.

June 2021. First part of Michigan Annual conference 2021 which will cover only housekeeping subjects. It is expected that no debate or legislative activities regarding separation will occur during this virtual gathering.

August 2021 The postponed General Conference will take place, likely in some hybrid form especially considering the added difficulties of international travel from places where about 35% of the delegates live. Up to this point, there has been no evidence of any organized efforts to discourage official legislation to provide for an orderly and fair separation so that a new Traditional Denomination can be launched to receive Conferences, Churches, Pastors and Laity.

September 2021 New Traditional Denomination (Name to be revealed at that time) will become operational under a transitional leadership council. Key leaders of the WCA as well as other UMC leaders will constitute this council. It is expected that several current UMC Bishops including some from the US will be part of this council. This is a clear indication that this new expression of Methodism is intended to attract existing UMC churches and pastors seeking a home away from the increasingly progressive current UMC. The post separation remaining UMC churches and hierarchy remaining will continue to be called the UMC.

September-December 2021. Several US and overseas Annual and Central Conferences will vote by solid majority to leave the UMC and become part of the new denomination. By the end of December 2021, the new Methodism will have in excess of one million members. It could be as many as 3 million at that time, having left the UMC. That would suddenly shrink the UMC from 12.5 million to 9.5 million members.

October 2021. The Michigan Annual Conference part 2 will meet. It is likely, but not certain, that the MAC will vote to remain in the UMC. The MAC may also begin efforts to increase its progressive nature.

October 2021. Immediately following the close of the MAC, any Michigan Conference UMC church will be eligible to vote to leave the UMC and join the new denomination. Such a departure will allow any such church to leave with all their property including all real estate and other assets, provided they join the new denomination. No separation payment will be required.

The decision to leave will be made by a vote of the membership of record at that time. The Church leaving and the status of the Pastor going forward can be independent. Any UMC pastor will be free to apply for Pastor status. There will be a reasonable period of "cross appointment" status so Churches and Pastors will have some time to sort out each other's future.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Lynn Galbraith  
5 - Lynn Kann  
7 - Larry VanNorman  
10 - Roma Galbraith  
13 - Gloria Phillips  
21 - Nyomi Forsyth  
24 - Marilyn Schultz  
28 - Woody Woodford

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

13 - Mark & Joan Trim

## STARTING OVER

The Prayer Concerns List has been cleared and will be started again next month. If you have someone that was on that list and you want them back on it please contact Marlene at 989-619-9374 or [davemarlene59@gmail.com](mailto:davemarlene59@gmail.com). They will be put back on the list.

All names called to the Prayer Chain and those turned in on the Prayer Request forms at church will be added to the Prayer Concerns list.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*Families of Vi Ward  
Ilene Johnson*

## SHUT-INS

*At The Brook - Grayling  
Marge Bryant*

## MILITARY

All Armed Forces  
Corey Brown  
Whitney Kann  
Lars Shied

## WATCH FOR COMING EVENTS!

**Ash Wednesday Service - Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Time - TBA

**UMW/Church Yard Sale - May 28 & 29**

**Easter Sunrise - April 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Time - TBA

**Easter Worship - April 9:30 am**

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## LOVE IS ...

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired."  
--- Five-year-old girl

"Love is when your puppy licks your ace even after you left him alone all day."  
--- Four-year-old boy

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other."  
--- Five-year-old boy

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"...A heart can be broken, but a circle goes on forever."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
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# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30 AM Worship	1 3:00 PM Girl Scouts	2 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Trustees	8 3:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Ad Council	9 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	10	11	12	13
14 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM UMM	15 3:00 PM Girl Scouts	16 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	17 1:00 PM Prayer Bears	18	19	20
21 9:30 AM Worship	22 3:00 PM Girl Scouts 6:00 PM UMW	23 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	24	25	26	27
28 9:30 AM Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6

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Phone Number 989-826-5598



Visit our Web Site at:

[www.MioMethodist.org](http://www.MioMethodist.org)

Also check us out on Facebook

E-mail Address: [MioMethodist@gmail.com](mailto: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.