



WUMC Community Pathway

NOVEMBER 2018

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

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Pastor's Corner

November 2018

This past month has been a busy and yet fruitful one.

The highlight, for me, was the privilege of baptizing Peyton Voice on Sunday, October 7. It was a particular joy that the church was filled with children on that day and that the children were such an important part of Peyton's day. My prayer is that those children's families will become a part of our faith community, preferably as active and committed members but, if not that, as neighbors who think of WUMC as "their church," and think of us when their own friends find themselves in difficult situations.

As you know, a small group of us have been participating in the Vital Church Initiative process for the last several months. We have an "outside team," which meets on a semi-regular schedule with the team from Good Shepherd of the North United Methodist Church in Roscommon. Each session is spent digging into a book that we are all asked to read prior to attending. Because of session date changes some of those who first committed to attend have not been able to, but they have participated in our sessions, here, with our "inside team." The inside team reads the books the rest of us read but meet with just the folks from our church. The input we have received from the inside team has been quite valuable to us.

That having been said, those of us who have been able to attend the outside team sessions have been somewhat discouraged that we have often had only one or two persons present from our church. (As it happens, the much larger team that attended the first session from Good Shepherd has diminished rather dramatically, too.) We have begun to question whether we are not spinning our wheels, to turn a phrase. The last session, however, may have ignited the spark we need to inspire growth in our church and in its ministries. Our text for this last session was **Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism**, but **Martha Grace Reese**. It is a bit difficult to explain the book, other than that it focuses on making "the 'E-

Word' (evangelism)" much less threatening and more doable, in daily, practical ways. I have always resisted the idea of having an "Evangelism Committee" or team at a church, for two reasons: 1. The word evangelism carries with it so much negative connotation that it is hard to get folks involved in it (or what they THINK will be involved in it!). 2. Evangelism, which comes from the Greek word *euaggelion*, which translates as "Good News," or "gospel," is *not* the work of a select few—it is the work of the *whole church*. How many times have we repeated our Christ-given mission: "*All authority, in heaven and on earth and under the earth has been given to Me. Therefore, GO and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world*" (Jesus "Great Commandment, Matthew 28: 18-20) as well as the Great Commission: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind...and love your neighbor as yourself* (Luke 10:27)? The problem with evangelism is that we have all witnessed—or even been victim of—bad evangelism practices. REAL evangelism is nothing more (or less!) than to share with another WHO Jesus is and HOW Jesus loves them, as well as how we have experienced that love in our own life. (No pressure, no head-counts, simply caring and loving as Jesus did!)

The real power of the book, however, was a quite detailed explanation of how to form "E-Teams" in the church and in the community—the **primary purpose of which is to PRAY**: Pray hard, pray frequently, pray sacrificially, and especially to learn how to pray in a disciplined manner. We are working toward that right now. A group has met to talk about what we have learned, and we are taking preliminary steps to discern how we might be able to make such a thing work here. The key point is that, instead of trying to keep doing things that have not worked (You have heard the definition of insanity, haven't you?)—that we put it in God's hands, trusting that God's desire is for our church and its witness to grow and flourish. We will be studying. We will be committing to deep regular personal and group prayer. We will be inviting other local churches to join in the process with us. This will not be for the faint of heart, but for those who will rely on faith and the power of God to take us places we have not been willing to go before now. (Don't be surprised if, when we get going and someone asks what the group is doing, the response is something like, "We are still praying about that!")

Why do we need to do this? Just look around at our sanctuary on Sunday morning. Compare that with what "used to be." If we continue along the path that we (and HUNDREDS of other small churches around our nation) are on, it will not be long before we can no longer be a beacon of hope to the community and to one another. We simply can't keep doing the things that do not work; we don't have the resources, the energy, or the volunteer force to do that. We must make a radical turn in what we are doing, and that radical turn is to...CEASE, AND PRAY! You will hear much more.

HOLY LAND TOUR

Once again, I want to thank the church and individuals that have contributed to make a dream-come-true happen, my journey to the Holy Land later this month. I am still not quite convinced that this is not a dream, but that will cure itself by events very soon.

I will travel to Grand Rapids on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 11 and spent the night with in-laws, then go to the airport at noon on Monday, Nov. 23. My flight leaves at 3:05 to Newark, NJ, where I have an eight-hour layover, then leave for Tel Aviv, Israel at 11:05 pm. I will arrive at Tel Aviv at 4:05 pm on the following day. From there we will travel to Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee, and visit Nazareth, Megiddo and worship while riding boats on the Sea of Galilee, as well as traveling to the Jordan River, where scholars believe John the Baptist baptized our Lord. After two days in this area we will travel south to Jericho, Qumran and the Mt. of Olives, then four days in and around Jerusalem. While in Jerusalem we will visit many of the holy sites and walk the Via Dolorosa (the path Jesus walked on the way to the cross). We also can participate in some special events: A Sound and Light Show at the Western Wall, a dinner with a Christian family in Bethlehem, and/or a journey to Masada and the Dead Sea (all at additional cost). I hope to do the first two of these.

The next day most of the 150 folks on the tour will return to the U.S. A group of about 45 of us, however, will travel in the opposite direction—south and east into Jordan to visit the ancient stone city of Petra. (If you aren't familiar with Petra, you can look it up on the internet or, even better, watch the first Indiana Jones movie, where Petra's treasury (carved into the face of the red cliffs there) is featured.) We will also spend some time swimming in the Dead Sea and then travel back to Tel Aviv for our return to the U.S. on November 24th. I will drive home from Grand Rapids on the 25th and spend the next week taking care of the "Honey-Please-Do" list and preparing to show you as much of my journey as possible on Sunday, December 2nd.

Thank you, friends! You continue to bless me beyond words!
In Christ's Service and Love!

Pastor Jack

ACTIVITIES

Saturday, November 3rd
The church is hosting a benefit spaghetti dinner to help with medical costs for a long standing community member, Lisa Whiteford. 4-8pm All are welcome! Thank You!



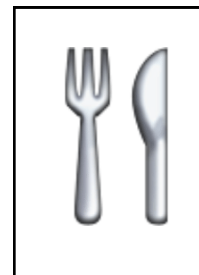
**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 4, 2018!**



Daylight Savings Time Ends!

RADA Cutlery!!!

Contact Carol Walter or call the Church!



Fundraiser for Women's Fellowship! Thank you!

ACTS
Acme Christian Thrift Store & Pantry
8925 M-72 East
Williamsburg, MI 49690
231.938.2990
acmechristian.org



Saturday, November 10, 2018
Sat 9-3pm
(6pm-8pm Set-up Friday)
Long Lake Elementary Craft Show
7738 N. Long Lake Rd, TC
Our Women's Fellowship will have a booth there with RADA Cutlery and other wonderful items!



Saturday November 10th
4:30-7pm
Yuba School Chili Fundraiser
at Acme Masonic Lodge
Bake sale & silent auction!
Support the renovation of the 157 year old Yuba School!
\$8 adults,
\$5 children 10 & under
There is also homemade chicken noodle soup available!

Let's Fill Up Santa's Sack!
Please consider taking a tag from the Christmas Tree in the Narthex to fill Santa's Sack for Families at ACTS Nov. 11-Dec 9



"NOISY OFFERING"
Central United Methodist Church "OUTREACH"
CUMC opens its doors seven days a week to the homeless population to provide a hot breakfast. Showers and access to a phone in the winter. They also join eight other church to provide hot meals to the homeless all year round. They participate in Safe Harbor during the cold winter months of the year. Thank you for your support!

CARE PACKAGES
In lieu of Care Packages, the Women's Fellowship Group will be sending out Thinking of You cards and a small gift certificate to our young adults in college and living away from the area. If you would like someone to receive a card, please provide their name and address to Kim Kuncaitis
(kuncaitiaskj@aol.com or 231.409.2298) by November 16th **THANK YOU!**

▶ November 2018

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Sun

*More info
in Newsletter

Mon

Tue

Wed

*more info
in
newsletter

Thu

Fri

Sat

AA SCHEDULE

Monday, 7:30pm

Wednesday, Women Only, 7pm

Saturday, Men Only 10am

Saturday, everyone, 7pm

1

All Saints Day

2

3

Benefit Spaghetti Dinner to benefit Lisa Whiteford's medical costs. 4-8pm @ WUMC
Thank you!



4 10:15

Worship Service/
Communion

*DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
TIME ENDS!
All Saints*

5

6

7 3pm All-Faith Svc. @ Samaritas

8

9

10

*District Conf.
*Craft Show
*Yuba School Fundraiser



11

10:15 Worship Service
POTLUCK
(Thanks Holly and Sherry)

12

13

14

3pm All-Faith Svc. @ Samaritas

15

16

17

18

10:15 Worship Service

19

20

21

3pm All-Faith Svc. @ Samaritas

22



23

24

25

9:00am
WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP MEETING

10:15 Worship Service

26

27

28

3pm All-Faith Svc. @ Samaritas

29

30

**All you can eat CHILI
SUPPER!**
**Saturday, Nov. 10th 4:30-
7pm**
@ Acme Masonic Lodge
Adults-\$8 – 10 & Under-\$5






Support the renovation of the 157 year old school! Bake sale and silent auction! Chicken noodle soup available.

Name: _____

Thanksgiving

Crossword Puzzle

Across

- Thanksgiving is celebrated during this season.
- Orange pie made with cinnamon and nutmeg.
- Popular sport watched on Thanksgiving Day.
- Sound made by a turkey.
- A big meal with lots of food.
- Big bird eaten at Thanksgiving.
- People you are related to.
- You pour this over your potatoes.
- Thanksgiving is always on this day of the week.

Down

- Famous "rock" where the Mayflower landed.
- People who helped the pilgrims.
- The pilgrims set sail on this ship.
- Thanksgiving is celebrated during this month.
- Another name for corn.

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NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS!

1ST JOYCE BURROWS
8TH RON RIDGE
9TH SAM HUVER
16TH MEGAN HAMILTON
18TH AARON STARKEY
21ST KATHLEEN HULBERT
23RD LAIRD KIEFT
24TH DON & JERRY HUBBELL'S ANNIV
24TH NATE & AMY STARKEY'S ANNIV

25TH BILL AVITTS
27TH MELISSA THOMAS
28TH PASTOR BEN SEXTON
30TH JOHN & SHERRY BOUCHER'S ANNIV



MITTEN TREE TIME!

We are gathering mittens, gloves, scarves, hats (infant through adult sizes) hand-made, OR purchased, OR gently used for organizations such as the Baby Pantry, TC Alternative High School, ACTS, Women's Resource Center, and more. This is an ongoing mission through March. Thank you so much!

Northern Waters District Conference

Saturday, November 10, 2018

1:00-5:00 pm

Houghton Lake UMC

7059 W. Houghton Lake Dr. Houghton Lake, MI 48629

"Two by Two, Village by Village: A Biblical Reflection on Community Engagement"

Rev. Paul Perez

Associate Director for Mission and Ministry as a partner in the Office of Connectional Ministry

WORKSHOPS:

*Engage MI: explore the new Michigan Conference mission program for local churches

*Community Relationships: learn about experiences that make differences

*New District Conversation: bring your questions, meet your leadership team, and dream about tomorrow

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: northernwaters.michiganumc.org , 2019 budget, nominations and celebration of 2018 ministries

WORSHIP:

Rev. Kathy Snedeker

Traverse Bay UMC

"Our Kids"

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

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