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MAY



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United
Methodist
Church**

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MICHAEL'S MINUTES

Doing The Hard Work



fruit of my faith becomes bitter, tasteless and unappetizing.

Unfortunately though, like many retail stores who employ a process called "just in time" ordering, many Christians live their faith with a "just in time" mentality when it comes to

spiritual formation. Let me explain how this works. When life is a struggle, whether sickness or heartache, we find time to participate in church, read our Bibles, and spend time in prayer. However, when life is going well, these spiritual practices seem less important and are therefore neglected. When the storms of life begin to blow again, as they inevitably will do, we jump back into a spiritual routine "just in time" to give us the spiritual help we so desperately need. The problem with "just in time" spiritual habits is that they keep us from reaching our full potential.

To those who may struggle with sporadic spirituality or hampered habits of holiness I am gently sympathetic to you. Admittedly, spiritual disciplines are by nature a lot of work. After all, they're called "spiritual disciplines" not "spiritual *easies*", but if we do the hard work of digging our roots down into the truth of God, we will drink deeply the refreshing living waters of Christ and our fruitful life of faithfulness will bring glory to God and encouragement to others.

Because We Are Called,

In early spring of 1993 I completed my last student pilot requirement by flying from St. Clair County International Airport to the MBS Airport. During this flight I was struck by the radical contrast of the landscape. What I noticed is that there were areas with a considerable vegetation and then there were vast open fields, still sleeping from the wintry chill. Yet, even amidst these large open landscapes, one could quickly tell where the rivers were. The trees huddled close to every twist and turn of the rivers. Just as a moth is drawn to a flame, so is vegetation to a water supply.

Yet isn't this exactly the spiritual lesson we learn in Psalm 1, which says:

"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV)

When we spend time in God's word, like a tree planted by streams of water, our lives grow strong as we absorb the nutrients of God's living water. This process is visible to others and I've seen it in my own. However, when busyness, work or worry take me away from a moment-by-moment lifestyle of meditation on God's goodness, the leaves of my life begin to shrivel and the

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Special points of interest:

- Vacation Bible School
- Call For Volunteers
- Thank you
- Let's Read Psalms
- Rummage Sale (Spring Cleaning.)
- Mark Miller Wedding invitation

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

Aw, spring has finally arrived! I know, the first day of spring was in March but it seems to stay cold until we get to May. I just love this time of the year. God has seen fit to allow all those wonderful plants to grow again. Flowers are blooming, the grass is getting greener and the leaves are coming out on the trees. What a wonderful time of the year. A time of renewal. Has it gotten you into the mood to renew yourself? Many activities are happening at our church and this is your chance to find that special something that you can do for your church.

As you look through this issue of the *Hinge*, you will find many opportunities to serve from our Christian education area, to missions, to the rummage sale. Look at the physical church, is there something you could do? Talk with



the Trustees and many opportunities will present themselves. God wants you to ask, "How can you use me?" He will find an opportunity for you.

Many of us, including Nancy and I, have returned from our winter hideaways in Florida and Arizona or other west coast haunts. We are all glad to be back in Michigan. (We are!) God has made this special place called Michigan and in a smaller sense Midland, Aldersgate and home. Enjoy the spring flowers and look forward to summer and what it has to offer.

Jack

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Habits for Living Well

In real life, we do not face perfect situations. Relationships, careers and finances can all complicate life, leaving us unsettled, frustrated, empty and exhausted. What if you could turn the life you have into the life you want? What if life could be more meaningful and filled with real joy? What if you could develop habits that would make every day of your life better? In this new teaching series, Pastor Michael will explore three important lessons the Bible teaches us about living well and experiencing real joy.

- April 26 Habits For Living Well: The Jesus Way of Living Matthew 11:25-30
- May 3 Habits For Living Well: Saying Yes To What Matters Most Luke 10:38-42
- May 10 Habits For Living Well: What Moms Need... & How You Can Help! Ephesians 6:1-3
Blanket Sunday
- May 17 Detroit Annual Conference – Guest Teacher



Bless

There is an old communication idiom that says, "When predictability is high, impact is low." Could this be where we have gone wrong in Church; everyone thinks they've got us all figured out? Maybe it is time for a new paradigm, a new way of looking at faith, and a new pattern for living out the call of Jesus. In this refreshingly new teaching series, Pastor Michael will explain a practical model for following Jesus using the acrostic B.L.E.S.S. Come and discover 5 words that will revolutionize your faith.

- May 24 Bless: How to use the power of your words. Genesis 12:1-5
- May 31 Listen: How to gain perspective. Psalm 46:10
- June 7 Eat: How to make friends Luke 19:1-10
- June 14 Study: How to grow your faith. 1 Timothy 4:11-16
- June 21 Sent: How to establish the Kingdom Ephesians 5:8-20

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

ADDIE'S LINE

Disciples making Disciples

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect."
Romans 12:2



FROM THE
**DIRECTOR OF
CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

"farewell" to our 5th graders who will be moving on to Remedy Youth. For this outing, we ask that parents would drop-off & pick-up their child at Northern Lanes. If transportation is an issue, please let Miss.

Addie know and alternative arrangements will be made. A signed permission slip and Medical Release Form will be needed in order to participate. If you have not received a UMK mailing this year, let me know. Otherwise, everyone will receive a permission slip via email prior to the event.

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, May 24th – We will have our 9:00 am Toddler/Preschool D.I.G and 10:30 am Nursery-Preschool Child Care. Our other D.I.G classes will not gather over the Memorial Day week-end. Classes will resume the following week.

Sunday, May 31st – *Christian Education Volunteer Recognition* will take place during both worship services. We are blessed by the faithful servants who are a part of the many offerings throughout the year.

We love because He first loved us...

Addie

JEFF'S JOURNAL

Wow, the Remedy Youth Group has been busy! We just finished up the For the Life of the World series. I think the teens and the adults got a lot out of it. I personally thought it was Awesome! We are now studying series two of Dave Ramsey's "Generation Change." (Peace University).



FROM THE
YOUTH DIRECTOR

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

As I continue my walk of discipleship with Jesus Christ I like to repeat this verse to myself. It reminds me that Jesus was called to serve, not to be served, and so are we.

Until next time,

Jeff

As part of our fundraising for our Mission Trip to Niagara Falls, we just had our annual Cupcake Fundraiser. It was a great success and we were able to raise \$600. We had a great time decorating them and they were delicious! Also, we are wrapping up our annual Adopt-a- Youth Fundraiser. Thank you for your support and generosity while helping to make this meaningful trip a reality. Our youth are truly blessed...

Vacation Bible School

“Serve one another in love.” Galatians 5:13

We will gather at **Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid** the week of June 22-26, 2015 from 5:45 pm – 8:30 pm. Many of us know what it’s like to hear our mom tell stories from our childhood. Can you imagine what kinds of stories Mary could tell about Jesus? We will journey back to Hometown Nazareth, where we will learn how to stand up for our faith among people who doubt that the carpenter’s son is really God’s Son...sent for all. We pray that through the working of the Holy Spirit, our obedience to God and sharing of our time, talents and energies that we will glory God and ultimately help guide children as they seek and come to know God more intimately through a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. What better invitation could you offer to someone? Who is God laying on your heart to invite?

This ministry opportunity takes many to plan, prepare and provide leadership the week of VBS. Please be prayerful about being a part of this special week. Our evening will



include supper from 5:45 pm – 6:25 pm and an adult class led by Pastor Michael. The **Hometown Nazareth** VBS Opportunities board is located in the narthex (lobby). Every person who is a part of VBS is important. Ask yourself...*Do I have a willingness to show God’s love to children of all ages?* Whether you are a prayer warrior in the background or leading out front, we have a place for you! Specific needs include several areas within the “marketplace” – new this year to VBS. You can contact me at 989-708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail if you have questions or would like to serve in some capacity. Thank you and to God be the glory alone!

Serving Christ Together,

Addie

When God calls... we do not make a decision...we answer

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Beverly Marra – MidMichigan Hospital 2/27/15
Rae Vaught - Unknown
Linda Tefft – MidMichigan Hospital 3/19/15



Flo Dyste – MidMichigan Hospital 3/23/15
Heather Short – MidMichigan Hospital 4/16/15
Bob Frazer - MidMichigan Hospital 4/24/15
Charlie Longsdorf - MidMichigan Hospital 4/26/15
May the God who “heals all our diseases,” grant healing to these friends.

LET’S READ PSALMS...

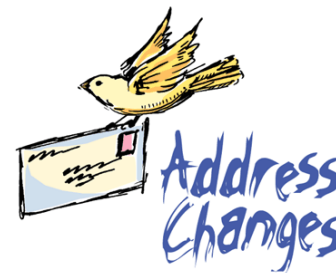
The book of Psalms is a collection of 150 poems, some dating back 3000 years ago. It serves as both a hymn book and prayer book in Christian churches and Jewish synagogues even today.



The Old Testament class led by Mary Wackerle will read the book of Psalms this summer. You are invited to read this book on your own during June, July and August and choose your ten favorites. More information will follow in announcements and bulletins.

ADDRESS CHANGES

James & Leslie Licht
1269 E Miller Road
Midland MI 48640-8941



SPRING CLEANING?



When you are doing your spring cleaning, please remember the Fall Trustee's Rummage Sale! (August 3-7) We can sell almost anything that is in working order and clean with the following exception, we will no longer accept any TV's, phones, computer, printers, or DVD players.

Please set aside your treasures and we'll let you know when you can bring them to the church.

Need boxes to put your treasures in for us? Let me know and I'll get you egg box/cartons to store your items. They stack better than plastic bags and you can write on them! Questions? Please call Jeri Smith at 989-615-7359 (cell).



55 AND 3F'S

The May meeting of our senior adult group will be May 11 in Fellowship Hall at Noon. As usual, this will be a potluck so bring a dish to pass. We will supply table settings and coffee, tea, or water to drink. Our guest for this meeting will be Elizabeth Lumbert from Dow Gardens. She will tell us all about the happenings planned for Dow Gardens for this spring and summer.

We encourage all senior adults in our church to attend



Senior Adults

these fun and informational luncheons. We have fun fellowshiping with each other over great Methodist cooking followed by an interesting talk about something going on in our community. This month will be on Dow Gardens. The hosts for this meeting are Scott and Linda Tefft.

It is helpful if you plan to attend if you note your intentions on the sign up sheet on the "What's Up At Aldersgate" bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Missions committee is looking to sponsor two projects that will need volunteers from the Aldersgate congregation. The first project is to continue the viability of the Blind Advocacy Group currently sponsored by Our Savior Lutheran Church here in Midland for the past 7 years. They will give up sponsorship this May. This group currently meets the last Saturday of the month for ten months of the year from 12-2 PM at their church. There are around 15 sight disadvantaged persons with about 10 of them needing rides to the lunch. The church furnishes a hot meal and a program usually from someone or some group in the community. The total number of persons at each meal including volunteers averages around 30. The participants now include 3 persons from Aldersgate.

We are looking for someone to lead this program. In addition, for each meeting we will need 4 persons to cook and



serve and 3 persons to drive. The Church Council has agreed to pay for the meals if we can find volunteers to run the program. For information contact Dick Skochdopole (835-6433) or sign on the sign-up board in Fellowship Hall.

The second project is to work again with Habitat for Humanity to rehab a home sometime between May and September. We will need volunteers for this and possibly identify an Aldersgate family who needs the rehab and who qualifies for a Habitat Home. The total cost to Aldersgate for the home project will run around \$1000. Again, see the sign-up board in Fellowship Hall.

Dick Skochdopole

Missions Chair



Mark Miller & Kelly Bricker

*Invite you to join them
in celebration of their marriage
Saturday, June 27, 2:00 p.m.
Central United Methodist Church
Muskegon, Michigan*

*Hors-d'oeuvre reception following in the Parish Hall
No gifts, please*

MEMORIAL DAY



Is it enough to think today
Of all our brave, then put away
The thought until a year has sped?
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song
And deck a grave; and all year long
Forget the brave who died that we
Might keep our great land proud and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,
That we who live give heart and soul
To keep the land they died to save,
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!

—Annette Wynne

Mary Wackerle

GLIMPING GOD?

A December 2014 *New York Times* article profiled Alberto Cairo, an Italian man who for 25 years has run orthopedic centers in Afghanistan. Woven throughout was the story of a chrysanthemum bouquet in Cairo's office. He told the reporter that his dearest friend, Sergio, had recently died. "His birthday was a few days ago," Cairo shared. Had he been in Italy, he would've placed yellow mums, his friend's favorite, at the grave. Instead, that very day, an Afghan staff member had brought yellow flowers to Cairo, saying, "I thought you might need these."

Cairo said, "[He] had never come to my office before, knew nothing about Sergio, and ... I have never seen these flowers in Afghanistan before." He concluded, "I believe that when the dead are dead, they're dead. But what am I supposed to think about this?"

I'll never know whether Cairo comes to believe in life beyond death, but coincidence is said to be God remaining anonymous. Maybe he's at work — through yellow mums.

—Heidi Mann

THANK YOU

Thank you all who support Shelterhouse with donation and service. Last year 100 women and 100 children were residents. "The house is always full," the staff says. Greatest needs are pajamas and socks (preferably new) and towels (gently used). Personal care items are always welcome.

SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Ralph Czerepinski's retirement party. That is he retired from being District lay leader for 10 years, Ralph previously retired from Dow. Congratulations Ralph on a job well done!
- Many flowers on the altar for Easter in honor and memory of loved ones. Thanks to all!
- Cookies for Hope Ministry. Cookies for the substance abuse groups that meet at our church weekly.
- Easter Egg hunt. Great fun.
- Thank you to many greeters. Strangers visiting our church appreciate your service.
- Maundy Thursday service. A very different and meaningful service.
- Our senior's group 55 and 3 F's had a meeting in March with Floyd Andrick telling them about the Di-



onne quintuplets and Chris Stevens in April talking about Philippians 4:8 and the Midland Daily News.

- The Lenten series Letters to the Exiles with many groups meeting.
- Dwight Gibson as our special guest preacher on March 22
- Dean Tobey leading worship for Pastor Michael on April 12. Good job Dean!
- Woman of Aldersgate enjoying "Dollhouse Dreaming" by Mary Ann Wise on April 7.
- Good Friday service at the MCFTA.
- Youth cupcake fundraiser. What beautiful cupcakes you all made. And delicious!
- Trees showing buds, spring is coming along.