



## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JULIE

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It's that time of year again! With Valentine's Day just around the corner, there are signs of the happy, feel-good type of love all around us. Pink hearts are beginning to show up in home windows. The stores are trying to entice us to purchase the perfect gift for the ones we love by displaying jewelry, candy, stuffed animals, cards and flowers since the day after Christmas. Television commercials and billboards, as well as newspaper and Internet ads, attempt to entice us even further.

With signs of love all around us, it's a good time to reflect on God's love for us and our love for God and others. Love is found all year long throughout the Bible. One of these places is 1 John 3:7-12. In this passage, John talks about how love originates from God. We are able to love because God loved us first. If we know love, we know God. If we do not know love, we do not truly know God. God showed God's love for us through providing a way to atone for our sins through Jesus Christ. Not only is this love present in Christ's death on the cross, but is also manifested in our love for one another as sisters and brothers in Christ. God first loved us, so we love God and one another.

As we know, love is not always happy and feel-good. Love takes work and intentionality. In the church and the world around us, we are to be examples of sharing God's love. In the church, we are to help strengthen and encourage one another as disciples on our journey of faith. When one person is struggling in body and spirit, it is up to others to pray for that person and offer support. When someone discovers his or her spiritual gifts, the church can provide a place for him or her to explore and utilize those gifts. When we disagree with someone within and outside the church, we are to come together to talk things out instead of retaliating when our feelings get hurt. Inviting people to church is a way of showing love. When we do to others, positively or negatively, we do to God.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, how are you sharing God's love with your sisters and brothers in Christ? How are you sharing God's love with those outside the church?

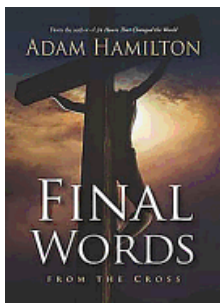
God bless you,

Pastor Julie

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## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

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Beginning Wednesday, March 12 and continuing each Wednesday evening until April 16 the Quincy and Litchfield Methodist Churches will meet together and discuss the book “Final Words From the Cross” by Adam Hamilton. Hamilton examines Christ’s dying hours and his final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross.

Please stop by the bulletin board and sign up if you are interested in attending, or call the church office at 542-3366. Please sign up before February 16, so we have enough books available. Information on other dates as follows:

March 12 - QUMC

March 19 - LUMC

March 26 - QUMC

April 2—LUMC

April 9—QUMC

April 16—LUMC

Ash Wednesday Service—March 5, 7 pm at LUMC

Maundy Thursday Service –April 17, 7 pm at LUMC

Good Friday Service –April 18, 7 pm at Litchfield Congregational Church

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CLARA DAWSON!

Clara celebrated her 90th birthday on January 10. Her church family recognized this special milestone during fellowship hour on Sunday, January 12.

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Clara and her beautiful daughters, Jan Childs and Cathy Densmore .

## FIRST STEP

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How's the year so far? We've moved through January and may still be retraining our hand to write 2014 instead of '13. Then again, we may have even less trouble with that as our society moves closer to a paperless way of transactions. Even if you're writing checks or signing documents, some businesses have auto-cashing when purchasing merchandise and there's no need to fill out that small slip of paperwork – sign, click, and done!

The advertising in January for self-improvement can be quite encouraging. Those 'ads' can be more convincing than some of those shouting, screaming, and best-deal-anywhere auto dealers! Eh?! 'Ads' for better health and mind through fitness, nutrition and knowledge fill all forms of communications. Radio, television, newsprint, magazine headlines, and electronic 'pop-ups' all work to grab our attention.

*"God gives us new desires." Ezekiel 36:26*

Can we do it? Can we begin a new and improved self? Of course! The encouragement comes from that First Step so many of the 'ads' reveal in reaching our new goal. January is behind us, but February still brings an even better time to focus in to greet God and achieve His goals for us. The shortest month ahead is an excellent opportunity to glance back at January to re-evaluate those commitments we set in thought and motion.

*"When they were discouraged, I smiled at them.  
My look of approval was precious to them." Job 29:24*

We can begin with a simple recipe in asking God to help us re-connect. Let's give this next quick month another opportunity for worship, song, and praise.

*"And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you,  
will continue his work until it is finally finished..." Philippians 1:6*

Start out February with a dash (monthly), sprinkle (weekly) or a main ingredient (daily) for each of our 2014 January revivals. Can we do it? Bob the Builder says – yes, we can!

Ron Jacobassi

# NOMINATIONS 2014

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*Welcome to the ministries of LUMC!  
Please keep the following people in your prayers as  
they serve on various teams.*

## **STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS TEAM**

Team Leader-**Tom Beckner**  
Lay Leader: **Tom Beckner**  
2014-**Doris Blonde, Janice Teller**  
2015-**Brett Smith, Zach Hiser**  
2016-**Betty Peiffer, Doug Thompson**  
Joint meetings with Quincy: Tom (as lay leader),  
Betty, Doris, Doug, Brett (four members).

## **TRUSTEES TEAM**

Team Leader: **Frank Hiser**  
Parsonage Trustee: **Betty Peiffer**  
2014- **Frank Hiser, Janice Teller**  
2015- **Mike Ireland**  
2016-**Betty Peiffer, Al Gaige, Tim Chilson**

## **NURTURE TEAM**

Team Leader: **Sharon Thompson**  
Members: **Cheryl Sykes, Val Roberts, Sue Houchen**  
Adult Ministries: **Marcia Ferry and Betty Peiffer**  
Children's Ministry Leader: TBA  
Youth Ministry Leader: TBA  
Lead Usher: **Michael Ireland**  
Witness Members: **Doug Thompson and Ron  
Giacobassi**

## **OUTREACH TEAM**

Team Leader: **Sheila Gary  
Janice Teller**  
Food Pantry Director: **Kathy Blonde**  
Assistant Food Pantry Director: **Laura Cierpilowski**  
Inventory and Food Stocking: **Brett Smith**

## **NOMINATIONS AND LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Team Leaders: **Rev. Julie Elmore and Janice Teller**  
Lay Leader: **Tom Beckner**  
2014-**Mary McMillen, Nancy Gaige**  
2015-**Janice Teller, Ella Hamrick**  
2016-**Millie Clark, Pat Smith**

## **FINANCE TEAM**

Team Leader: **Jack Smith**  
Lay Leader and SPRC Chair: **Tom Beckner**  
Financial Secretary: **Marcia Ferry**  
Treasurer: **Carol Ireland**  
Trustee: **Betty Peiffer**



## **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

Team Leader: **Carol Ireland**  
Lay Leader and Lay Member to Annual Conference:  
**Tom Beckner**  
Pastor: **Rev. Julie Elmore**  
Recording Secretary: **Velvet Evans-Giacobassi**  
Staff Parish Relations Chair: **Tom Beckner**  
Trustees: **Frank Hiser**  
Finance Team and Stewardship Chair: **Jack Smith**  
Financial Secretary: **Marcia Ferry**  
Church Treasurer: **Carol Ireland**  
Communications: TBA  
Lay-Leadership Chairs: **Pastor Julie Elmore and  
Janice Teller**  
Nurture Team Chair: **Sharon Thompson**  
Outreach Team Chair: **Sheila Gary**  
Church Historian: **Eleanor Wildt**  
Membership Secretary: **Cheryl Sykes**

**No meeting in February.**



**We'll meet again on March 26, 2014, 1:00 p.m.  
YOHOO! THINK SPRING!!**

## **REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE**

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*Plan to stay after our worship service every Sunday  
and join in for some good food and fellowship.*

<b>February 2</b> Laura Cierpilowski Sheila Gary	<b>February 9</b> Carl & Cheryl Sykes	<b>February 16</b> Mike & Carol Ireland	<b>February 23</b> Al & Nancy Gaige	<b>March 2</b> Doug & Sharon Thompson
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## **LITURGY SCHEDULE**

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<b>February 2</b> Frank Hiser	<b>February 9</b> Cheryl Sykes	<b>February 16</b> Val Roberts	<b>February 23</b> Brett Smith	<b>March 2</b> Sheila Gary
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## POTLUCK WITH REV. JIM & SHARI GYSEL

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A special thank you to Rev. Jim & Shari Gysel for your ministry in Litchfield during Pastor Julie's leave. You have been a blessing to all.



## HELP US KEEP OUR RECORDS CURRENT

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### MOVING? GETTING A NEW PHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL? PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!

If you are changing any of your contact information, please let us know so we can keep our church directory current. You may fill out the information below and return it to the church office or call at 542-3366. Thank you for your help!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYERS NEEDED

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Prayers for those in nursing homes and assisted living: Elnora Beckner, Geri Bennett, Willie Hinkle, Edith Southworth, Wes Sutton, Lorene Ladd, Margaret Ludlow, and Clif & Fran Wells.

Debbie Kurtz	Patty Johnson	Becky Cooper	Ruth Hamilton
Jason Hill	Pat Smith	Kaitlyn Snyend	Debbie Noakes
Marcia Ferry	Leah Snodgrass	Heather Pitts	Edye Macey

Prayers for those away at college

Prayers for those in our military

Prayers for the youth of our community

**Update on Tamara Williams** - On Monday, January 20, Tamara had successful surgery to remove her thyroid. She is now driving again and back to work. She would like to thank you for all your prayers.



## FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS

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### LITCHFIELD UMC FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS – DECEMBER 2013

	<u>Dec. 2013</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income Toward Budget	\$ 9,449.69	\$ 88,336.69	\$ 91,400.00
Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 8,251.20</u>	<u>\$ 88,882.18</u>	<u>\$ 99,650.00</u>
Difference	\$ 1,198.49	(\$ 545.49)	(\$ 8,250.00)
Needed Monthly	\$ 8,304.17		
Designated Giving	\$ 7,131.56	\$ 33,821.83	
Ministry Shares Paid	\$ 2,565.96	\$ 9,726.96	\$ 11,700.00

## **SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE RED CROSS**

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Thank you so much for your willingness to hold the blood drive Wednesday, January 8! Despite the harsh weather conditions, people still managed to support the effort! On behalf of the American Red Cross and the 72 people who will receive either plasma, platelets or red blood cells because of your efforts, please accept our sincere gratitude and appreciation! And please help share it with the many volunteers who helped with snow removal, room set up, unload/reload and just being around to help out in general during the blood drive. Our staff was very grateful to Mike Ireland for making coffee available!!!



Thank you!  
Loretta McCarthy,  
American Red Cross

**Our next blood drive: Wednesday, March 12, 2014**

## **FROM PASTOR JULIE**

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Dear Members of Litchfield UMC,

Thank you for the love offering you gave my family and me for Christmas. As suggested by someone, we are saving this money to be spent on Oliver's future educational endeavors. We also appreciated all of the Christmas and baby cards many of you sent. God blessed us abundantly through you.

With Love,  
Rev. Julie Yoder Elmore

*Our Gratitude*





# February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please check the weekly bulletins for changes, updates & locations.		L—Litchfield Q—Quincy				1
2 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	3 3 pm L Knit and Craft	4 6 pm L Trustees 7 pm L Outreach	5 9:30 am Q Bible Study	6 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	7	8 District Training Day @ Marshall UMC  1 PM L Girl Scouts
9 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	10 3 pm L Knit and Craft	11	12 9:30 am Q Bible Study  7 pm L Nurture	13 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	14	15
16 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	17 3 pm L Knit and Craft	18 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	19 6 pm L Finance 7 pm L Ad. Council	20 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	21	22
23 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship  7 pm HARCC Sing at Jerome UMC	24 3 pm L Knit and Craft	25	26	27 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	28	If your birthday or anniversary is missing or in error, please call the church office with your information.

**February Birthdays**

4-Mike Finegan  
12-DeVere Noakes  
22-Carol Ireland

4-David Griffiths  
16-David Evans  
26-John Crater

7-Glenn Hackworth  
20-Kathy Blonde

12-Fran Wells  
22-Leah Giacobassi

**Anniversaries**

8-Robert & Jean Sykes

27-Doug & Sharon Thompson



## **LITCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**160 Marshall St  
P O Box 472  
Litchfield, MI 49252**

**517-542-3366**

**E-mail: [umclitchfield@gmail.com](mailto:umclitchfield@gmail.com)**

**Website & Calendar: [umclitchfield.org](http://umclitchfield.org)**

**Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/litchfieldumc](https://facebook.com/litchfieldumc)**

**Pastor Julie Elmore**

**E-Mail: [jyelmore@gmail.com](mailto:jyelmore@gmail.com)**

**Cell Number: (517) 607-6977 (text and call friendly)**

**Home Number: 517-542-3775**

**Office Hours**

**M-W-TH 9:00-3:00**

**Food Pantry Hours**

**M and TH 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

## **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 A.M.**

**WORSHIP 11.00 A.M.**