



## A Note From Pastor Julie

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Scripture Reference:

“I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (Common English Bible)

Happy New Year 2014 to you, your family, and friends! The beginning of a new year is a good time to reflect on what has happened in our lives over the last year and to anticipate how our lives may unfold over the next year. A new year is a time for a fresh start, a chance to dream and discern to what and where God is leading. As individuals, we may make plans or set goals for ourselves. These plans and goals are often focused on improving our life in some way such as losing weight, exercising more, and growing deeper in our faith.

As disciples of Jesus Christ in this congregation, a new year is an opportunity for us to dream and discern how God is calling us together to faithfully serve our community and our world. As Jeremiah 29:11 says, “God knows the plans God has for us. These plans are not meant to bring us harm or disaster, but to give us a future filled with hope.” Even through the financial challenges, as well as the challenge to be relevant to individuals and families in our changing world, God is at work and we must not lose hope. We must continue to be faithful to our mission of helping others connect with God and develop their own relationship with God. We must not give up no matter the challenges.

As many of you know, my husband David, and I are experiencing a time of new beginnings. Our son, Oliver, was born December 4, 2013. Since that time, David and I have been adjusting to having a new little human being in our life, particularly noting how our sleep and meal patterns have changed. We try to sleep and eat when the baby sleeps and cannot always predict the exact times when these things will take place. Despite the challenges this new beginning entails, God calls us to stay the course as we raise Oliver to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. All new beginnings come with their challenges. That’s what makes Jeremiah 29:11 so comforting. No matter what we are going through, we know that ultimately God has plans for us and desires for us to have a future with hope.

As we face this new year together, may we have the assurance that no matter what 2014 holds for us, God’s plans for us include hope.

God bless you,

Pastor Julie

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## January Happenings

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Wednesday, January 8, Noon-5:45 p.m.—**Red Cross Blood Drive at LUMC!**

Saturday, January 11, from 5-7 p.m. - Our church will host a **Turkey and Biscuit Community Dinner** by donation. Proceeds from this dinner will go toward church expenses. Please plan to come, invite a friend, and enjoy a fun evening of good food and fellowship.



Sunday, January 12 - **Human Relations Day**. We share this offering in mid-January because this marks the birthday of The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the work he did to transform our nation and the world in the area of healing relationships in the human community. The offering supports community development programs that improve living conditions, build relationships, and testify to the love of God through the ministry of presence.

More than 30 church-based community developers work in racial and ethnic-minority communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. A multiracial network of grassroots social justice organizations related to United Methodist Voluntary Service provides vital outreach. Christ-centered Youth Offender Rehabilitation projects give teenagers a chance to succeed.

God calls us to lead others to Christ. Please give generously on Human Relations Day. Your gift makes a world of difference!

## College Students Home for Christmas!

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Left to right—Stephen Sykes, Leah Giacobassi, Becca Roberts, Zach Hiser, Samantha Cares, and Scottie Steele



Cassie and Leah Giacobassi

## Good Timing

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Another calendar year rolls into our lives. In many bookstores, they have a calendar department. Shelves and shelves of selections with landscape scenes, cats, dogs, pigs, horses, frogs, insects, flowers, buildings, and much more. Pictures for every month to stir up our thoughts, actions, and emotions. Now that's just a briefing on the large-size calendars. How about those 365-day selections?



Even more pictures, words and inspirations. With every new year comes those thoughts of the previous year happenings, accomplishments, and doings. For many people, this leads to those resolutions that will add up to a better 'something-or-other'!

Is there a good time to get started on your list? There could be. That new calendar is printed full of commitment. Every month, with the weeks, then days are etched in ink. January starts it all without interruption. That calendar keeps good timing as 24 hours click away.

Of course, reflections of the previous year can remind us of sadness, doubts, and future wonder.

*"He gives power to those who are tired and worn out: he offers strength..."* Isaiah 40:29

Those calendar selections are committed for the entire year. What's your goal? What's your commitment for the 2014 days ahead? That volunteer support you've been considering, or better health and nutrition can begin now. Along with a renewed spirit and a fresh start in giving God praise and worship: monthly, weekly, daily.

*"Seek His will in all you do and He will direct your paths."* Proverbs 3:5-6

Good timing usually comes to realization after the fact of beginning that certain something. Let's take the challenge from our new 2014 calendar printed in ink, that the days ahead can bring encouragement, healing, knowledge, and strength from God in many, many ways.

*"Those committed to God find renewed strength.  
They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary.  
They will walk and not faint."*

Isaiah 40:31

Let's start the year with God on that very first calendar page and follow throughout 2014. Timing can be everything. Spending it with God – is good.

Cheers - Ron Giacobassi

# Outreach

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## **Pantry**

On December 4, the final report for the Hillsdale County Community Foundation had been filed showing how the pantry utilized the \$2500 that it was awarded in December of 2012.

The food pantry partnered with Meijer in their Simply Give fund raising program during November and December and the first couple of days of January 2014. Funds raised through the program were matched and then placed on a gift card for the food pantry to use at the Meijer store.

In November, Pantry Director Kathy Blonde collected numerous \$10 donations and received \$900 from Metaldyne UAW members to turn in to Meijer during the two-day double-match period. All funds donated and matched generated a total of \$4280 during the month of November. Early in 2014, there will be another gift card given to the pantry for the remainder of the donations that came in during the regular match period from December through January. 3. Pantry volunteers will watch for Meijer sales throughout the year and use the gift card judiciously to continue to serve Hillsdale County residents who use the pantry. Thank you and bless all who gave to the food pantry during this fund-raising event and throughout 2013.



The food pantry also received a \$160 Market House gift card, thanks to the efforts of Mark Blonde who was instrumental in contacting Performance Auto of Jonesville. All donations to the LUMC Food Pantry are tax deductible.

There were many ways and forms of giving to our food pantry in 2013:

- ◆ The UMW donates items each month.
- ◆ Church members have their large family holiday gatherings and their members often bring items for the food pantry.
- ◆ Metaldyne UAW donated food in November.
- ◆ Girl Scouts collected food in October.
- ◆ The USPS had a can drive.
- ◆ The H.C.C.F. Youth had a Fill -the-Freezer drive.
- ◆ First Baptist Church has collected items for our pantry.
- ◆ Congregation members or locals from Litchfield share the bounties from their gardens.
- ◆ Bob Evans in Hillsdale donated meat.
- ◆ Hunters and farmers donate meat.
- ◆ Our local County National Bank allows us to have a food collection box in their lobby, too. CNB also donated over 30 coats this season which were given out through the pantry.
- ◆ Martha Wonders and others from the knit and crochet group are making mittens and hats which are given away, too.
- ◆ In December, Linda Knight donated a box of yarn for the craft group to continue knitting items to give away.

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## Outreach Continued

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The pantry is blessed with outpourings from many directions, which in turn, allow blessings to flow out to the families and individuals of our community who are in need.

Monetary donations are always welcome, too. Sometimes, due to the passing of a loved one, families and friends give memorial contributions to the food pantry. There are envelopes on the display table in the fireside room which can be used to send funds directly to the South Central Michigan Food Bank in Battle Creek, too. So many caring individuals, so many ways to give- we are thankful to be able to serve our community through the cycle of giving and receiving, in Jesus' name.

### **Christmas Baskets**

This year, 23 Christmas baskets were given out. With the help of Tenneco, Brembo and NexSolutions who donated turkeys, and from individuals who donated items or money and from special collections, we were able to provide holiday meal items and a gift item for each child. Sixty individuals benefited from the holiday giving: 27 children and 33 adults.



## Congratulations to Pastors David and Julie

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**On the birth of  
Oliver Yoder Elmore  
Born December 4, 2013  
At 2:35 p.m. at  
Oaklawn Hospital  
In Marshall**



Ladies Epiphany is January 11, 2014 at Marshall UMC.  
Registration to Linda Leece by January 7.

Our next meeting is on January 22, 2014 at the church at 1:00 pm.  
Hostesses are Eleanor Wildt and Pat Smith.

Program by Nancy Gaige.

Pantry item—canned vegetables

Thank you for all the cookies in December for the cookie trays.

Happy New Year!

President, Carol Ireland

## Refreshment Schedule

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<b>January 5</b> Doug & Sharon Thompson	<b>January 12</b> Marcia Ferry Lois Miller	<b>January 19</b> Doris Blonde Eleanor Wildt	<b>January 26</b> Betty Peiffer Janice Teller	<b>February 2</b> Laura Cierpilowski Sheila Gary
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Plan to stay after our worship service every Sunday and join in for some good food and fellowship.

## Liturgy Schedule

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<b>January 5</b> Tim Chilson	<b>January 12</b> Tom Beckner	<b>January 19</b> Zach Hiser	<b>January 26</b> Doug Thompson	<b>February 2</b> Frank Hiser
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## Keeping in Touch During the Winter

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Elnora Beckner  
Assisted Living  
11303 W. Drive N  
Bellevue, MI 49021

Glenn & Betty Hackworth  
1703 N. Thornton, Space 549  
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Annie Wolfe  
1452 S. Ellsworth Rd. #2662  
Mesa, AZ 85209-3700

Geraldine Bennett  
Grand Vista  
99 Vista Dr. Room 11  
Coldwater, MI 49252

Lorene Ladd  
Drews of Hillsdale  
300 E. Bacon Rd.  
Litchfield, MI 49242

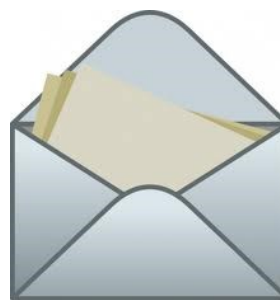
Margaret Ludlow  
Emerald Forest Assisted Living  
20125 E Michigan Ave.  
Marshall, MI 49068

Art and Millie Clark  
Casa Del Valle  
1048 N. Alamo Rd., #7  
Alamo, TX 78516

Edith Southworth  
The Laurels of Coldwater  
90 N. Michigan Ave.  
Coldwater, MI 49242

Patty Johnson  
1010 Litchfield Rd.  
Litchfield, MI 49252

Wesley Sutton  
Nursing Home Care Unit Ward  
842 VA Medical Center  
5500 Armstrong Rd.  
Battle Creek, MI 49015



Dick and SueAnn Kaleida  
2780 Hardin Creek Rd.  
Clifton, TN 38425

Wilhelmina Hinkle  
Drews of Hillsdale  
300 E. Bacon St.  
Hillsdale, MI 49242

Robert & Jean Sykes  
226 Merry Lane  
Jet Trailer Park  
Palmetto, FL 34221

Please inform the church  
office of any addresses which  
should be added to this listing.  
THANKS!

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## 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, and Margaret Ludlow.

The Family of Verna Cooper and Michael Miller, Sr.

Kaitlyn Snyend

Becky Cooper

Sue Houchen

Debbie Noakes

Debbie Kurtz

Ruth Hamilton

Verna Cooper

The family of Olin Hinkle

Patty Johnson

Jason Hill

Pat Smith

Pastors David and Julie, and Oliver

Prayers for those in our military

Prayers for those away at college

Prayers for the youth in our community

## Six New Year Resolutions

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- 1. Forget the past and honor God more.**
- 2. Live for Christ in the world.**
- 3. Trust God with a strong faith.**
- 4. Remain faithful to my church.**
- 5. Witness to the lost.**
- 6. Cultivate the talents God has given me for His glory.**





## Thank You's

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Dear Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry & United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for keeping me in your prayers during my recent surgery. The prayer shawl that was given to me has kept me warm—both on the inside and out. I have felt your prayers, and I appreciate you all so very much. Much Blessings, Sarah Smith

Dear LUMC Friends, Thank you so much for the birthday card with all your names on it. I really consider your church my second church, and always have. And thank you to those who celebrated with me for my big birthday. God bless you.

Elnora Beckner



Dear LUMC Friends, Thank you to the UMW ladies for the fruit bag. It was a sweet treat and I thought of you each time I ate one. And thank you also for all the other gifts that came in through the office and the money gift from the church. You folks do a wonderful job of showing God's love to me and the community. I look forward to another great year of working together with all of you as we reach others for Christ. Love, Carolyn Nafziger

A HUGH THANK YOU to Mark Blonde who was able to get his brother, Steve, and nephew, Jason, both professional painters, to paint the hallway and doors, and to do this for no charge, during their down time. It sure brightens up the hallways! God bless you all for your generosity to our church building. From the Grateful Folks of LUMC

Dear Church Family, Wow, another semester has come and gone! Thank you very much for the gift card treat for Halloween. I also appreciate the card and kind thoughts sent my way. This semester was a busy one, and I'm looking forward to being home for Christmas. Thank you again! Hugs from Texas, Cassie

## Congratulations!

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Congratulations to Shane and Sarah Morgan on the birth of Sherman Russell Morgan.

He was born on December 20, and weighed in at 8 lb. 13 ozs, 21 3/4 in. long.

Mom, Dad, and big sister, Sophia, are all doing well.



# January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please check the weekly bulletins for changes, updates & locations.		L—Litchfield Q—Quincy	1	2	3	4
5 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship Noon-Celebrate Clara Dawson's 90th Birthday	6 3 pm L Knit and Craft  7 pm L Bible Study	7 10 am L Bible Study  6 pm L Trustees 7 pm L Outreach	8 9:30 am Q Bible Study  L-Noon-5:45 pm—Blood Drive 7 pm L Nurture	9 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	10	11 UMW Epiphany at Marshall UMC  5-7 pm —L Turkey Pot Pie Dinner
12 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	13 3 pm L Knit and Craft  7 pm L Bible Study	14 10 am L Bible Study	15 9:30 am Q Bible Study  6 pm L Finance 7 pm L Ad. Council	16 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	17	18  1 pm L—Open House for a 90th in Fellowship Hall
19 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	20 3 pm L Knit and Craft  7 pm L Bible Study	21 10 am L Bible Study  7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	22  1 pm L UMW	23 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	24	25
26 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 Hillsdale UMC	27 3 pm L Knit and Craft  7 pm L Bible Study	28 10 am L Bible Study	29	30 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	32	

## January Birthdays

4-Laura Cierpilowski

20-James Wildt

27-Ruth Reinhart

## Anniversary

29-Dan & Deborah Smith

6-Hazel Rice

20-Larry Reasoner



10-Clara Dawson

25-David Pitts

13-Toni Sharp

26-Cathy Crater



**LITCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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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://www.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.**

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER**



*Sunday School 9:45 a.m.*

*Sunday Worship 11 a.m.*