



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JULIE

Scripture Focus: John 20:1, 11-16

Later this month we celebrate Easter. The resurrection of Jesus the very first Easter morning gives us hope that death does not have the final say. Through Jesus' victory over death, we have hope of eternal life.

I remember the first Easter I lived in Nome, Alaska as a US-2 Young Adult Missionary through the United Methodist Church. I had lived in Nome a little over six months and had *nearly* made it through my first winter. As I woke up that morning, I was in a crummy mood. The sky was gray and overcast. Snow that had been accumulating since October was still on the ground. Green grass and flowers were absent from the landscape. Signs of Easter as I had known them for the first 24 years of my life were absent. The cues were not there to convince my mind and body that it was Easter. I just wanted to stay in bed.

My feelings that day gave me a tiny glimpse into what Mary Magdalene must have been feeling the very first Easter morning. Her beloved teacher and friend had been crucified and laid to rest in a tomb. She was grieving and perhaps felt hopeless in her grief. Life as she knew it was over as she struggled to relearn the world without Jesus in it. She returned to the tomb after telling Peter and the other disciple that Jesus' body was gone. Upon her return, Mary Magdalene encountered a man whom she thought was the gardener and asked where he had taken Jesus' body. In that moment Jesus revealed himself to her and immediately she recognized him. Hope was restored!

What at first seemed like a hopeless, gloomy Easter day for me several years ago turned into several encounters of the risen Christ. I experienced the risen Christ through worship – the songs, prayers, Easter story, sermon, and the people around me. I experienced the risen Christ through the gift of homemade hot cross buns from a woman in the church. I experienced the risen Christ in the people who hosted me and other friends for Easter dinner later that afternoon. The risen Christ showed up through the love and thoughtfulness of others, as I relearned what Easter is like in another part of the country. Easter is not about the external signs I was used to. Easter is about the fact that Christ is alive! Christ is alive indeed!

Sometimes the risen Christ may be hard to see at first, but he is there! Just when we think all hope is lost, Christ shows up. How will the risen Christ show up for you this Easter?

God bless you,

Pastor Julie

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Mark your calendars with the following dates and locations
for our Easter services and Bible studies.

Lent Study – 7 p.m. each evening we will focus on Adam Hamilton’s book, *Final Words from the Cross*.

Session 3 Wednesday, April 2, at Litchfield UMC
Session 4 Thursday, April 3, at Quincy UMC
Session 5 Wednesday, April 9, at Quincy UMC
Session 6 Wednesday, April 16, at Litchfield UMC

Palm Sunday – April 13, 11 a.m. at Litchfield UMC

Maundy Thursday Service – April 17, 7 p.m. at Litchfield UMC

Community Good Friday Service - April 18, 7 p.m. at Litchfield Congregational Church, Pastor Julie will be giving the message.

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 19, 2 p.m. at Litchfield UMC

Sunrise Service and Breakfast – April 20, 7 a.m. Service with Breakfast to follow.

Easter Celebration - Sunday, April 20, 11 a.m. at Litchfield UMC

EASTER EGG HUNT



Saturday, April 19, 2014

2:00 p.m.

**Litchfield United Methodist Church
For Children through 6th Grade**

****Come early to register for prizes!****

We will also share an Easter story.

CROSSINGS



AHEAD

Pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists all encounter some form of sign indicating a crossing ahead. There are deer, pedestrian, railroad, school, truck and other crossing signs giving us non-verbal directions. More populated areas include sound warning signals at crosswalks for the visually impaired. Some of these non-verbal directions bring our attention to reduce speed, yield the right of way, and take extra caution in observing for people.

“Obedience brings great rewards.” Jeremiah 7:23

Obeying the rules of the road signs helps keep people safe.

As Easter Sunday/Resurrection Day arrives on April 20 this year, I want to bring our attention to *John 19:25-27*.

“Standing near the cross were Jesus’ mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, ‘Woman, he is your son.’ And he said to this disciple, ‘She is your mother.’ And from then on this disciple took her into his home.”

The other Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, use the word distance and bystanders describing the scene around Jesus’ crucifixion. In John 19, it is recorded that there is just one disciple Jesus sees at the cross; it’s the disciple whom He loved.

Let’s back up a couple of weeks ago to a radio program sermon I heard on this particular John text. The speaker brings attention to the fact that there was only one disciple who showed up at the cross. The others would be included in that distant or bystander setting. This speaker then brings up a question to listeners. How would you feel if only one person came to you as you were dying? What if you made that difference in someone’s life? What if you stood at the cross (and) wanted to be that disciple whom he loved? I’m certain that Jesus would welcome you with open arms in thought and spirit. I’m certain you would welcome someone who comes to your side.

“For the Lord our God is the one who rescued us...” Joshua 24:17

In three weeks, we celebrate the life of Christ again. Even with uncertainties, doubt, or fears we can be recognized by Jesus and others as the disciple whom he loved, when we move toward the sign of the Cross.

“For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them... and having chosen them, he called them to come to him.” Romans 8:29-30

So when we are approaching one of those crossing signs, remember... reduce speed, yield to Him right away, and take extra caution in observing for people.

But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.” I Peter 2:25

Proceed,

Ron Giacobassi

OUTREACH NEWS

- ◆ **Summer Free Lunch Program** : This program is gearing up to be held June 9 through July 28, 2014, in conjunction with the Litchfield Public Library Reading Program. Last year, 915 meals were served to children, parents, and volunteers. Of the 915, 831 were served to children alone. Meals came to about \$1.48 per meal. Laura Cierpilowski and Lois Miller are working on menus for this event. If this looks like a program you would like to get involved in, help is always needed and appreciated. Contact Sheila Gary, our Outreach leader, or the church office for more information.
- ◆ **June Garage Sale Weekend** : June 6 and 7, 8:00 to ? Mark and Kathy Blonde will have the church's items to sell at their location. Anyone who wishes to volunteer will be greatly appreciated. Proceeds from the garage sale will be split between the Summer Free Lunch program and this year's Vacation Bible School program.
- ◆ **Sweet Corn Days**: Thursday and Friday, August 15 and 16, 2014. Proceeds will be going to "Imagine No Malaria," a United Methodist Church effort to raise funds to eliminate suffering and death from malaria in Africa.
- ◆ **Chili Supper and Pie Auction**: Plans are being made to have a Chili Supper and Pie Auction in October 2014. Proceeds from this event will go towards the Christmas basket project that we offer to those of our community in need.
- ◆ **Food Pantry News**: Bob Evans, Hillsdale plant, donated a pallet of one-pound tubes of sausage to our pantry. There were over 100 cases. We in turn, donated some cases to Domestic Harmony in Hillsdale, as well as 12 cases to Camden's Food Pantry. What a welcome gift!!
- ◆ The **Meijer Simply Give** program is coming up! We've been chosen again to receive the money donated. It runs from March 30-May 12, 2014. Please take note that Double Match Days are April 11 and 12. Pick up a donation card in the Narthex and you may give your \$10 to Kathy Blonde and she will be sure it arrives on time for the double match! This can also be done at the store when you are there. Just keep in mind those dates when your \$10 can turn into \$30!



UPCOMING VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Plans are being made for Vacation Bible School 2014
Sunday, August 3, through Thursday, August 7
6:00—8:30 p.m.
Please mark your calendars and watch future newsletters
for more information.



Our meeting for April will be held on April 23, 2014 at the church.

Hostesses will be Nancy Gaige and Betty Peiffer.

Program is Prayer & Self-Denial.

Pantry Item: Canned Meat

All women are welcome to our meetings.

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

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

April 6 Carl & Cheryl Sykes	April 13 Mike & Carol Ireland	April 20 Al & Nancy Gaige	April 27 Doug & Sharon Thompson	May 4 Marcia Ferry Lois Miller
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LITURGY SCHEDULE

April 6 Frank Hiser	April 13 Cheryl Sykes	April 20 Val Roberts	April 27 Brett Smith	May 4 Sheila Gary
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ALL-CHURCH VISIONING – Saturday, April 5

MISSION & VISION

Have you wondered where God is leading Litchfield UMC into the future? Want to be part of this discerning process? You are invited to gather together with others from Litchfield UMC on Saturday, April 5, from 9:00 am to noon at Litchfield UMC for the first of two discernment meetings led by Pastor Julie Elmore and our Lay Leader, Tom Beckner. Please contact Carolyn in the church office (542-3366) by Thursday, April 3, to let her know you will be attending.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY



On Sunday, May 4, 2014, you will have the opportunity to give to Native American Ministries Sunday to empower spiritual development, plant Native American churches, and cultivate outreach.

Your financial gift empowers local outreach and educates Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully. The United Methodist Native American Ministries Sunday offering also helps preserve a rich cultural heritage.

JOIN THE CROP HUNGER WALK!

Sunday, May 4, 2014
Salvation Army
160 E. Bacon Street, Hillsdale, MI
Registration—1:30 pm
Walk—2:00 pm
Be a walker or sponsor a walker.
More Information?
Call the church office 542-3366.



PRAYERS NEEDED

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

Debbie Kurtz	Patty Johnson	Becky Cooper	Jason Hill
Pat Smith	Kaitlyn Snyend	Debbie Noakes	Leah Snodgrass
Heather Pitts	Edye Macey	Randy Jones	Susan Campbell
Jean Sykes	Mary McMillen	Garland Chapman	Marge Beckner



Prayers for those away at college
 Prayers for those in our military
 Prayers for the youth of our community

Mary McMillen's address: RidgeCrest Health Campass, 703 Robinson Rd.
 Jackson, MI 49203 Room 301. Phone: 517-960-2535

FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS

LITCHFIELD UMC FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS – FEBRUARY 2014

	<u>Feb. 2014</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income Toward Budget	\$ 7,738.38	\$ 14,189.63	\$ 100,500.00
Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 8,324.59</u>	<u>\$ 18,666.70</u>	<u>\$ 95,900.00</u>
Difference	(\$ 586.21)	(\$ 4,477.07)	\$ 4,600.00
Needed Monthly	\$ 8,375.00		
Designated Giving	\$ 2,360.00	\$ 3,280.12	
Ministry Shares Paid	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 11,114.00

SPECIAL THANKS

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for the Valentine's Day card and treat. I really appreciate it and letters from home always put a smile on my face.

Hope you are staying safe and warm! A few friends and I are going to have a BBQ tomorrow for a break from our studies and to enjoy the nice weather. This Midwest girl still has a hard time believing we can grill in February!

School is going well. The class I am a teaching assistant for just had their first exam, I hope my review session was helpful!

Hugs, Cassie Giacobassi



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards and prayers for me. It is so wonderful to have Christian friends like you. I am feeling much better, but not ready to go full steam yet. God bless you all.

Love, Nancy Gaige

A BIG THANK YOU to my church family and friends for the many ways you've shown God's love to me these past few months following my surgery. Your words of encouragement through cards and phone calls, along with your visits and many dishes of food delivered to me always brought a ray of sunshine into my numerous housebound days. These acts of love and kindness reminded me of how precious each and everyone of your friendships are to me. I am so very thankful and feel very, very blessed! May God bless you all. Marcia Ferry

EASTER FLOWERS



The time has come once again to make plans for decorating our church for Easter Sunday. You may purchase a *SPRING FLOWER* for this purpose by filling out this form and placing it in the offering plate, or turning it in at the church office. Please make checks payable to LUMC for \$12.00. Orders will be taken through Sunday, April 13.

A complete list of names will appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, and you may choose a plant to take home after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Given by _____

How many _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please check the weekly bulletins for changes, updates & locations.	L—Litchfield Q—Quincy	1 10 am L Bible Study 6 pm L Trustees 7 pm L Outreach	2 7 pm LQ Lent Study at LUMC	3 7 pm LQ Lent Study at QUMC	4 9 am L Girl Scouts	5 9 am-Noon All-Church Vision Session. Everyone Welcome!
6 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	7 3 pm L Knit and Craft	8 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm L Nurture	9 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm LQ Lent Study at QUMC	10 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	11	12 1 pm L Girl Scouts
13 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	14 3 pm L Knit and Craft 7 pm L Bible Study	15 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	16 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm LQ Lent Study @ LUMC	17 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 7 pm L Maundy Thursday Service	18 7 pm L Community Good Friday service at Litchfield Congregational	19 2 pm L Easter Egg Hunt
20 7 am L Sunrise Service/ Breakfast 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	21 3 pm L Knit and Craft 7 pm L Bible Study	22 10 am L Bible Study	23 1 pm L—UMW	24 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	25	26 1 pm L Girl Scouts 2 pm L Luncheon for Marian Wolfe Memorial in Fellowship Hall
27 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 Stokes Chapel	28 3 pm L Knit and Craft 7 pm L Bible Study	29 10 am L Bible Study	30 2:15 –4:00 p.m. L-Good Stuff Club	If your birthday or anniversary is missing or in error, please call the church office with your information.		

April Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2-Kyle Wildt | 4-Marcia Ferry | 5-Jacob Dickinson | 6-Carl Sykes |
| 7-Tom Beckner | 7-Cecelia Evans | 7-Frank Hiser | 12-Ashleigh Pitts |
| 13-Ray Wendorf | 22-Becca Roberts | 26-Doug Thompson | 27-Mark Blonde |

Anniversaries

- 15-Mike & Carol Ireland

Hooray! It's Back!



The GOOD Stuff Club



Songs!

Fun!

Healthy Snacks!

A place for children to learn about the GOOD things in God's Word

A place to learn good values, good manners, kindness, and caring ways.

Stories!

Smiles!

Laughter!

Who may attend? **Children Kindergarten thru 6th grade**

When? **Wednesdays, April 30-May 21, 2014**

What time? **From 2:15 until 4:00 p.m.**

Where? **Litchfield United Methodist Church**

Helpers will be available to walk children from school to the church

****Parents are responsible for transportation home****

Cost? **It's FREE! FREE! FREE!**

Registration/Permission can be obtained at the Litchfield United Methodist church office and must be returned there before a child may attend.

For more information please contact: the church at 542-3366, Pastor Julie Elmore at 517-607-6977 or Cheryl Sykes 269-967-7868 or Marcia Ferry 269-986-4841.

The GOOD Stuff Club

Registration slips must be received before a student can attend.

The GOOD Stuff Club - Spring 2014 (one registration/permission slip per child)

Student's name _____ Age _____ Grade _____
Parents name(s): _____ Primary phone: _____
Street Address: _____ City: _____
Home email address: _____ Alternate one: _____
Allergies or other medical conditions: _____
In case of emergency contact: _____ Phone: _____
To whom do we release kids? _____

Please check if you agree:

I give permission for my child to attend The Good Stuff Club. _____

I give permission for my child to be transported in case of inclement weather. _____

I give permission for my child to be in photographs of children at the Good Stuff Club. _____

I give permission for my child to be in videos of children at the Good Stuff Club, _____

Signature of parent: _____

Return to Litchfield United Methodist Church, 160 Marshall Street,
P.O. Box 472, Litchfield, MI 49252



LITCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

517-542-3366

E-mail: umclitchfield@gmail.com

Website & Calendar: umclitchfield.org

Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/litchfieldumc

Pastor Julie Elmore

E-Mail: 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.

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11.00 a.m.

