



A Note From Pastor Julie

Although I enjoy the uniqueness of each season, summer is by far my favorite season of the year. I have always thought this was so because I was born in the summer (July 9). However upon further reflection, there are many more reasons. The grass and trees are green. Outdoor flowers are in full bloom. The temperatures are warmer which means that heavy coats are not necessary. The roads are not slippery unless we get a ton of rain. The sun rises earlier and sets later each day. There are many more activities in general such as outdoor concerts, farmers' markets, 5k walks/runs, and community festivals. I love summer and look forward to it every year!

As we approach summer, I am excited about the opportunities for ministry in this season. Particularly, I am looking forward to our Vacation Bible School coming up Sunday, August 3 through Thursday, August 7. I used to love going to Vacation Bible School when I was a kid!! Not only does Vacation Bible School allow us to celebrate the fun of summer and learning more about our amazing God, but we will also have the chance to engage with individuals and families in our community. This year we are planning five nights of VBS as opposed to the three nights we hosted last year. In order to make Vacation Bible School happen, we need many willing hearts and hands to make it the best it can be for the glory of God. Vacation Bible School gives all of us the opportunity to make new friends and/or deepen relationships in our community for Christ. We get to have fun AND do God's work at the same time!

In those times we get weary of doing God's work, God will give us the strength and energy we need. In Galatians, Paul challenges us in saying, "We must not become tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time if we do not give up. When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it." (Galatians 6:9-10a) This life is not about us, but about helping others to discover a relationship with God and to grow in their faith and understanding.

Please consider helping with Vacation Bible School, even if you do not think you are good with kids. God may just surprise you and utilize you in ways you never dreamed! Please contact Sharon Thompson or me to see how you can help in this fun opportunity.

Happy Summer!

Rev. Julie Yoder Elmore

JUNE EVENTS

- ◆ **June 6 & 7, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Garage Sale** at Mark & Kathy Blonde's. Donations can be taken to their place most anytime. Or give them call at 542-3672 to make sure they are at home. Anyone who wishes to help on Friday or Saturday, 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.



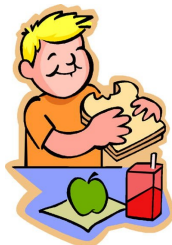
- ◆ **Wednesday, June 11-Saturday, June 14** - 2014 West Michigan Annual Conference Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Disciples Made in Michigan is this years theme. Be in prayer for all members of Conference as they discern spiritual questions and worship in the rich way we know as United Methodists.



- ◆ **Saturday, June 14, 4:00-7:00 p.m. - Graduation Open House** for Jessica Sykes at Litchfield United Methodist Church. Jessica would love to have you come and celebrate this exciting time in her life.

- ◆ **Sunday, June 15 - United Methodist Peace with Justice Sunday.** Your gift helps spread the Gospel of Peace and empowers those who faithfully stand for justice.

- ◆ **Monday, June 16, Noon to 1 p.m.** —The fun begins with our church hosting the **Free Summer Lunch Program** in conjunction with the District Library and their Summer Reading and Fun Program. Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, volunteers will prepare and serve hot and wholesome meals for any child up to age 17 who comes. Summer reading begins at 11:00 a.m. There are many areas where help is needed. Stop by the bulletin board at the church and sign up where you can be of help, or see Lois Miller and Laura Cierpilowski for more information. You may also call the church office at 542-3366.



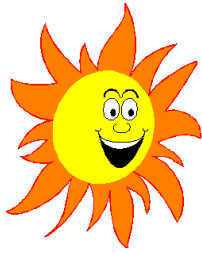
- ◆ **Sunday, June 22, 7:00 P.M. - HARCC Singspiration** (Hillsdale Area Rural Church Consultation) will be held at Litchfield United Methodist Church. For everyone who loves to sing the old hymns of the church. A time of refreshments and fellowship time will follow the program.



- ◆ **Tuesday, June 24, Noon—Ladies Day Out!** At Stoagies in Coldwater. Car-pooling from the church will be available. A sign-up sheet is available at church. All ladies are invited! Hope to see you there.

- ◆ **Sunday, June 29—Fifth Sunday Offering** will be given to Salvation Army.

ORDINARY TIMES



The calendar life in the church takes a bit of a breather for the summer months. June 8, celebrates that first Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of Jesus (Acts 2:1-47). We went from a time leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ, then his triumph over sin and death through the Easter season. So, what happens to the life of the church during these summer months? More importantly, what happens to us?

Many churches lighten up the scheduling for services, choirs, and meetings. People tend to look for ways to lighten up as well. There's more time spent outdoors with garage sales, golf, graduation celebrations, weddings, parks, beaches and county fairs. All these activities and more are where people come together with family, friends, and common interests. As busy as all that may seem, this too gives a bit of a breather in the life of ourselves. Some ordinary events with less rigid guidelines.

With all these activities of connecting with people in many different settings, this can be an even greater opportunity for spreading Christ's work through our action and words.

"As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:16

There are grills heating up at bonfires, fireworks, porches, yards, race tracks, and pool-sides. It's no wonder the church calendar takes a break. That's because it's our turn to show and tell AND live the message of Christ. There will be ordinary times this summer when you'll have that nudge, or hear a call that'll change everything into an extraordinary time in your calendar life. There may be more organizing involved to have those lighter, brighter days, but always worth it.

If that Motel 6 chain advertisement can leave the light on for us, imagine what God's light can do in you! Ordinary days, with extraordinary times.

"Be still, and know that I am God," Psalm 46:10

Remember church is still open on Sunday even during ordinary times.

Pass the ketchup, please!

Ron Giacobassi



MAKING PLANS TO PURCHASE NEW SOUND SYSTEM

In recent years, the Litchfield United Methodist Church has experienced difficulty with its sound system in the sanctuary, which has affected the quality of services provided. Several technicians have repaired what they could. Now, vendors agree the system can no longer provide the quality audio and visual services that are necessary for our church and its ministries.

At its May 2014 meeting, the Administrative Council authorized the purchase of a new sound system from Playford Music & Sound of Jackson, Michigan, when funding is secured. Approximately \$18,000 is needed for the total package, however, the church could purchase equipment in phases, if necessary, as indicated below.

Phase 1 -- \$7,247.98
Phase 2 -- \$5,810.00
Phase 3 -- \$3,045.82
Labor Costs -- \$1,529.96
Total -- \$17,633.76

Our church facilities are used widely by the local church and the Litchfield community. A new mixer board and amplifiers are the first necessities. Updated computer equipment and software are needed to utilize modern media (e.g., iTunes and YouTube). Once again, we would be able to record services for those not able to be in attendance. Better hearing assistance devices would enhance the services for our seniors. Video monitors in the nursery, narthex, and fellowship hall would offer more people the opportunity to participate in worship. Likewise, these monitors would assist when overflow seating is needed.

The church is also used as a facility for services apart from regular Sunday worship times. Due to the size of the sanctuary and parking capabilities, our church is the site for weddings and funerals. Annually, the church sponsors a number of community-wide ministries for children. Teen events, movies, women's retreats, and singspirations are conducted from time to time. A functioning sound system is required for all of these gatherings.

Please begin to seek God's direction about making a gift for the Sound System Fund. Funding **must come above and beyond** our regular tithes and offerings. God has blessed our church richly over many years, and we want to serve God to the best of our abilities now. New sound equipment would enhance the opportunities for quality ministry.

LITCHFIELD CUB SCOUT PACK 241



This has been an amazing start for us here at the Litchfield United Methodist Church, and we are very thankful. So far, our scouts, in a very short amount of time, have already had our first successful fundraiser. We've also collected canned goods for the food panty and have earned our first badge.

Summer looks very promising with a day trip planned at a camp, an overnight stay in Lansing for the Lugnuts baseball game, and a clean up of the nature trail with swimming after.

If you have a young man in grades K-5, please let them know we are here in a safe and welcoming place to have meetings.

Thank you, Kim Crawford,
Litchfield Cub Scout Pact 241, Committee Chair

FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS

LITCHFIELD UMC FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS – APRIL 2014

| | <u>Apr. 2014</u> | <u>Year-to-Date</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income Toward Budget | \$ 8,088.53 | \$ 32,200.24 | \$ 100,500.00 |
| Budgeted Expenses | \$ <u>9,428.23</u> | \$ <u>37,143.42</u> | \$ <u>95,900.00</u> |
| Difference | \$ (1,339.70) | \$ 4,943.18) | \$ 4,600.00 |
| Needed Monthly | \$ 8,375.00 | | |
| | | | |
| Designated Giving | \$ 1,882.00 | \$ 6,041.32 | |
| | | | |
| Ministry Shares Paid | \$ 927.00 | \$ 4,818.25 | \$ 11,114.00 |

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

| June 1 | June 8 | June 15 | June 22 | June 29 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Clara Dawson Ella Hamrick | Ron & Velvet Giacobassi | Carl & Cheryl Sykes | Doris Blonde & Eleanor Wildt | Al & Nancy Gaige |

Plan to stay after our worship service every Sunday
and join in for some good food and fellowship.
Special thanks to the following who will be serving!

LITURGY SCHEDULE

| June 1 | June 8 | June 15 | June 22 | June 29 |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Frank Hiser | Cheryl Sykes | Valery Roberts | Brett smith | Sheila Gary |

Special thanks to the following people who are willing
to assist the pastor in Gathering Words and reading Scripture.
You are appreciated.

VBS—COMING SOON!

GANGWAY TO GALILEE AMAZING GRACE ADVENTURES



Litchfield United Methodist Church
Combined with Litchfield Congregational Church

Sunday, August 3 - Thursday, August 7, 2014

6:00-8:30 p. m. Pre-School—6th Grade

Set sail on a wondrous adventure where Jesus gives amazing grace! Invite all your mates and get into ship-shape, for Jesus is the captain of this vessel. First mates learn that Jesus is big on grace, mercy, might, and majesty-and he's also "big on us." All-aboard for this voyage with Jesus and his disciples around the Sea of Galilee.

RACE FANS-LISTEN UP

SATURDAY, July 12, 2014, BUTLER RACE NIGHT! Zach Hiser and Quentin Blonde will both be racing. And Zach has painted the church name on his race car. Fireworks will follow the race. Gate opens at 2:00 p.m. Race begins at 7:30 p.m. Adults: \$15 Kids \$7



Zach would like to urge people to show up around 6:00 to ensure good seating arrangements. Perhaps earlier depending upon the size of the group that is going. Fireworks night is a night when the stands are literally packed. A reminder that this will be a dirty event, and that ear plugs may be needed. Fireworks should begin somewhere between 9 and 10 p.m. with races ending around midnight. If there are any other questions that need answered, you may email Zach at hiserracing1313@gmail.com.



OUR 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



BRITTANY BUTTERBAUGH

GARRETT GRIFFITHS

ZACH HAMRICK

JESSICA SYKES

GOOD STUFF CLUB—Spring 2014

**What a great time we had sharing the love of Jesus with the children of our community!
Special thanks to our awesome helpers!**



REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR...

In nursing homes and assisted living: Elnora Beckner, Geri Bennett, Willie Hinkle, Lorene Ladd, Mary McMillen, Hazel Rice, Edith Southworth, and Wes Sutton.

Marge Beckner
Chris Braxholm
Garland Chapman
Rita Chilson
Becky Cooper
Jason Hill

Frank Hiser
Patty Johnson
Randy Jones
Dick Kaleida
Debbie Kurtz
Bambi Lambright

Mike & Anne Mate
Heather Pitts
Leah Snodgrass
Jean Sykes

Debbie Noakes
Hazel Rice
Pat Smith

Pray for Paul Webster, our mission in Africa.
Pray for the veterans.
Pray for farmers.



VISIONING

On Saturday, April 5 & 26, members of Litchfield United Methodist Church met to discern God's vision for our church. We celebrated how God is working in our congregation and discussed where God is calling us in the future. After much conversation, we set several goals that were then approved at Administrative Council at its May 21 meeting. The goals are as follows:

⇒ YEAR 1

Make our worship services more contemporary and occasionally mix in some traditional elements.
Create a Worship Planning Team.
Increase worship attendance by 5% over the previous year.

⇒ YEAR 2

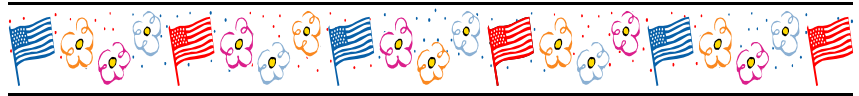
Include a live instrument band in the worship services, as well as include dramas and other elements to make worship more vibrant.
Expand Sunday School to include children.
Expand community engagement.
Continue to increase worship attendance over the previous year.

⇒ YEAR 5

Have an average worship attendance of 122 in order to be eligible for a full-time pastor.
Offer a Pastor-led Bible Study regularly.

Stay tuned for details of the next visioning meeting which will be sometime in the Fall. If you would like to talk with Pastor Julie regarding this vision, please visit her during her office hours, make an appointment or call her at 517-607-6977.

June 2014



L-Litchfield Q-Quincy

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| 1 9 am Q Worship 10L30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship | 2 6 am L Prayer Time 3 pm L– Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study | 3 10 am L Bible Study 11 am L-FCE in F. Hall 6 pm L Trustees 7 pm L Outreach | 4 9:30 am Q Bible Study | 5 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6:30 pm Q Game night | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9 am Q Worship 10L30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship | 9 6 am L Prayer Time 3 pm L– Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study | 10 10 am L Bible Study | 11 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm L Nurture <i>West MI Conference</i> | 12 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer <i>West MI Conference</i> | 13 <i>West MI Conference</i> | 14 4-8 pm L Open House for Jessica Sykes <i>West MI Conference</i> |
| 15 9 am Q Worship 10L30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship | 16 6 am L Prayer Time 3 pm L– Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study | 17 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council | 18 9:30 am Q Bible Study 6 pm L Finance 7 pm L Ad Council | 19 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9 am Q Worship 10L30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship 7 pm HARRC Sing @ Litchfield UMC | 23 6 am L Prayer Time 3 pm L– Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study | 24 10 am L Bible Study Noon—Ladies Day Out @ Stoagies in Coldwater. | 25 9:30 am Q Bible Study | 26 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9 am Q Worship 10L30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship | 30 6 am L Prayer Time 3 pm L– Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study | | Please check the weekly bulletins for changes & updates. | | If your birthday or anniversary is missing please call the church office with your information. | |

June Birthdays

1-Tim Chilson
3-Ken Cierpilowski
6-Ruth Hamilton
7-Lori Beckner
13-John Pinter
24-Lorene Ladd
29-Janice Teller

Anniversaries

1-Larry & Bev Reasoner
20-Scott & Deb Barrington





LITCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

160 Marshall St
P O Box 472
Litchfield, MI 49252

517-542-3366

E-mail: umclitchfield@gmail.com

Website: umclitchfield.org

Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/litchfieldumc

Pastor: Julie Yoder Elmore

E-Mail: jyelmore@gmail.com

Cell Number: (517)607-6977 (Text and Call Friendly)

517-542-3775 (Parsonage)

Office Hours

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

Food Pantry Hours

M and TH 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

JUNE NEWSLETTER

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

Happy Father's Day!