



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JULIE

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Last month we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ as we celebrated Easter. There is hope in the story of the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus died and overcame death through his resurrection!

John 20:1-18 gives one account of the resurrection story. The tomb is empty and Mary Magdalene (a disciple in her own right) is the first to discover this and goes to tell other disciples – Peter and the beloved disciple (who many think was John). They find that Mary is right and that the tomb is indeed empty. When Mary first sees the empty tomb, she thinks some people have taken Jesus away. John believes that the tomb is empty and that death has been defeated, but does not understand about the resurrection. Peter saw that the tomb was empty, as well, and that the linen wrappings were just lying there.

Both Peter and John return home, while Mary stays near the tomb and weeps. She weeps to the angels in the tomb that “they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” As she turns around, she sees who she thinks is a gardener. It is not until he says her name that she realizes who is really in front of her. In front of her is her teacher, her Lord. Jesus tells her not to hold on to him because he has not yet ascended to the Father. He still has much work to do before he goes to be with God. In telling Mary not to hold on to him, he is telling Mary to share the good news that he is risen.

Why was Mary the first person to see the Risen Jesus? Why did the disciples run home? Did they think that because the tomb was empty that they would never see Christ again and that was the end of the story? Were they not listening to Jesus when he told them that after he was going to die, that he would rise again on the third day?

Mary faithfully stayed by the tomb and was the first to discover the good news. We, like Mary, should not keep this news to ourselves, for Christ is Risen and has overcome death once and for all. This is good news for us because we have hope that one day we too will be resurrected with Christ and have new life in Christ. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!

Rev. Julie Yoder Elmore

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Good Stuff Club

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.

Who may attend? Children Kindergarten thru 6th grade.

When? Wednesdays, April 30-May 21, 2014

What Time? April 30-From 2:15 until 4:00 p.m.

May 7, 14, 21-From 3:30-5:00 p.m.

It's FREE!

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

⇒ Parents are responsible for transportation home.



If you would like to help with this ministry or want more information, contact the church at 542-3366 or Pastor Julie Elmore at 517-607-6977.

GRADUATION SUNDAY — May 25, 2014

The Litchfield United Methodist Church will recognize graduates during the morning worship service and fellowship hour on Sunday, May 25, 2014. Those we honor include:

Garrett Griffiths—Jonesville High School

Jesse Pitts - Litchfield High School

Jessica Sykes—Litchfield High School

Alex White—Homer High School



If there are other high school or college graduates that should be on this list, please contact Pastor Julie or Carolyn in the church office. Plan now to join us to acknowledge our graduates at this important time in their lives.

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?

Do you remember learning about the Maypole? A day celebrated on or around May 1. This festive time is centuries old and observed mostly in European countries. Some of my findings reveal it had pagan connections dating back to a time before Christ. A time of worship by Romans to Flora*, the goddess of flowers. Another group of people, from the British Isles, the Druids, celebrated a new year on May 1, May Day for them. As people of long ago invade, conquer and occupy other lands, a blending of cultures becomes at risk for change.

*"It is time to celebrate before the Lord your God... with your whole family.
This festival will be a time of great joy for all." Deuteronomy 16:9-15*

The church recently celebrated Resurrection Sunday or Easter, another once-pagan festival (March '14 newsletter), with the hope for a newness of life in Jesus Christ. Somehow, some mysterious way, these celebrations began without God, but have twisted, turned, and evolved into new life inclusive of His creations.



The Maypole celebrations include song, dance, brightly colored ribbons, garlands of flowers, and much joy. A time to renew and refresh the spirit as spring leads way to summer. A similar time from Easter leading to Pentecost (seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection, Acts 2:1). A time for newness of life to a newness of spirit.

The Maypole celebrations had hardships as well, throughout those many centuries in Europe. There was opposition to worship a goddess, but continued to include new life and eventually tied to Pentecost celebrating a resurrected spirit. Even as we have much joy because of Easter and the risen Lord, we need a spirit to help us continue with that great act of life renewed. We too will have challenges, doubts, and questions in life for the why's, how's and when?

*"And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:4
Jesus said, "But when my Father sends the Counselor as my representative-the Holy Spirit-he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I myself have told you." John 14:26*

That innermost Spirit will help us be patient, discover and find some peace.

In all the information I read about the Maypole, there were some common traits century after century. The day in May brought people together, the awareness of new life, and a renewed joy that a spirit is within them.

"Come, everyone, and clap your hands for joy! Shout to God with joyful praise!" Psalm 47:1

The festival of the Maypole has changed in many ways. It has even transformed to include the Christian celebration of Pentecost (June 8, this year). Be open to a renewed spirit in Christ. Let the season of Easter continue in May with a change of spirit in us for a new song and dance to God.

Step one, two, three & Dosey-Doe,

Ron Giacobassi

*sources: Wikipedia, Crystalinks
See the bulletin board for various Maypole photos.

OUTREACH Events

- ◆ The **Meijer Simply Give** program is in process! We've been chosen again to receive the money donated. It continues through May 12, 2014. Pick up a donation card in the Narthex, you may give your \$10 to Kathy Blonde, and she will see that it gets to the Meijer store. This can also be done at the store when you are there. Thank you for your support for the Litchfield Food Pantry.



- ◆ **Free Summer Lunch Program** Once again, our church will be hosting the Free Summer Lunch Program in conjunction with the Litchfield District Library and their Summer Reading and Fun Program. The fun begins on Monday, June 16, and runs through Monday, July 28. 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 a.m., followed by the Free Lunch, served from noon to 1 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help cook, serve, monitor, and clean up on each of these days. Generally, Lois and Laura organize the food preparations, but they would appreciate an additional person or two to help out prior to serving time, usually about 10 a.m. Other helpers are asked to come in around 11:45 a.m., to get their assignments.

This year, Kathy Blonde will assist Lois on Fridays to cover for Laura who will be Unavailable on those days. Carol Ireland has already volunteered to come in to help on Fridays, too. More volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

On the days that our fellowship hall is needed for other things, such as the blood drive or a funeral luncheon, the Congregational Church allows us to have our program in their lower level. Lunch will not be served on Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board; many hands make light work!

- ◆ **June Garage Sale Weekend:** June 6 and 7, 8:00 a.m. 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.

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 May will be held on May 28, 2014 at the church.
 Hostesses will be Carol Ireland and Ruth Pinter.
 Program by Doris Blonde.
 Pantry Item: Toothpaste
 All ladies are invited to our meetings.
 Hope to see you there.

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

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

May 4 Marcia Ferry Lois Miller	May 11 Men serving For Mother's Day	May 18 Betty Peiffer Janice Teller	May 25 Laura Cierpilowski Sheila Gary	June 1 Clara Dawson Ella Hamrick
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LITURGY SCHEDULE

May 4 Tim Chilson	May 11 Tom Beckner	May 18 Zach Hiser	May 25 Frank Hiser	June 1 Cheryl Sykes
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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.



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.



Is God leading our denomination in a new direction?

Several years ago, the West Michigan Conference and the Detroit Conference discussed the possibility of a merger between the two Conferences and then each put it to a vote. After voting, the answer was no, at that time.

In an attempt to explore a new the possibility of merger, all clergy, staff and key leaders from churches in the Albion District of the West Michigan Conference and Ann Arbor District of the Detroit Conference are invited to gather. We will worship, watch our District Superintendents participate in "The Dating Game," and have a little speed dating round with one another. Overreaching themes gleaned from our comments and ideas that day will be shared with Bishop Kiesey to help her and the Leadership Team answer the question, "Is God leading us in a new direction?"

The event is Tuesday, May 6, from 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. at Jackson Calvary UMC (925 Backus Street, Jackson, MI). For more information, please contact Pastor Julie at 517-607-6977.

PRAYERS NEEDED

Prayers for those in
nursing homes and
assisted living:

Elnora Beckner

Geri Bennett

Willie Hinkle

Edith Southworth

Wes Sutton

Lorene Ladd

Clif & Fran Wells.

Also, pray for:

Debbie Kurtz

Patty Johnson

Becky Cooper

Jason Hill

Pat Smith

Kaitlyn Snyend

Debbie Noakes

Leah Snodgrass

Heather Pitts

Randy Jones

Jean Sykes

Mary McMillen

Garland Chapman

Marge Beckner

Bambi Lambright

Dick Kaleida

Fred McMillen

Mike and Anne Mate

The family of Susan

Campbell



FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS

LITCHFIELD UMC FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS – MARCH 2014

	<u>Mar. 2014</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income Toward Budget	\$ 10,892.08	\$ 24,111.71	\$100,500.00
Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 9,023.49</u>	<u>\$ 27,710.19</u>	<u>\$ 95,900.00</u>
Difference	\$ 1,868.59	(\$ 3,598.48)	\$ 4,600.00
Needed Monthly	\$ 8,375.00		
Designated Giving	\$ 879.20	\$ 4,159.32	
Ministry Shares Paid	\$ 926.25	\$ 2,786.25	\$ 11,114.00

SPECIAL THANKS



LUMC—A huge THANK YOU to everyone for the card of well wishes, prayers, and kind thoughts. Your support has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. Thank you also for the prayer shawl. I love, love, love it! Again, thank you for your continued prayers and support.
Heather Pitts

Postcard from Samantha Cares... Sending you a bit of sunshine! Miss you all!

BLOOD DRIVE



Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Noon-5:45

Litchfield United

Methodist Church

LEAVING A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE...

BUY A BRICK—Build a Faith



Wesley Woods is expanding! **With 200% growth in the number of summer campers over the past thirteen years**, there is an increasing need for more programming space and dining facilities. We recognize the importance of both, feeding people physically and spiritually. This unprecedented growth has presented great challenges in these area.

We plan to expand our existing Dining Hall and build a new Worship/Multi-Purpose Center. We cannot meet this challenge alone—we need your help” The **Buy a Brick, Build a Faith** campaign will raise funds for both projects simultaneously. Your contributions will help us move toward a better equipped, more useful facility that will allow us to “Impact Lives with Jesus Christ,” and leave a legacy for the next 60 years of ministry.

If this looks like something you might like to contribute to, more information and forms are available in the church office. Or, visit our website today at www.wesleywoodscamp.com!





May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please check the weekly bulletins for changes, updates & locations.	L—Litchfield Q—Quincy	If your birthday or anniversary is missing or in error, please call the church office with your information.		1 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6:30 pm Q Game Night	2 6-9 pm Q Malaria Plant Sale	3
4 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship 2 pm L CROP WALK	5 3 pm L Knit and Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	6 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm Outreach	7 9:30 am Q Bible Study 3:30-5 pm L Good Stuff Club 6 pm Q Men's Night Dinner	8 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	9	10 1 pm L Girl Scouts
11 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	12 3 pm L Knit and Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	13 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	14 9:30 am Q Bible Study Noon-5:45 pm L Blood Drive 3:30-5 p.m. L Good Stuff Club 7 pm L Nurture Team	15 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	16	17
18 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 Allen UMC	19 3 pm L Knit and Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	20 10 am L Bible Study Q Spring Luncheon 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 p.m. Q Ad. Council	21 9:30 am Q Bible Study 1 pm L—UMW 3:30-5 pm L Good Stuff Club 6 pm L Finance Team 7 pm L Ad. Council	22 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	23	24 1 pm L Girl Scouts
25 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship Graduation Sunday	Memorial Day Office & Food Pantry Closed	27 10 am L Bible Study	28 9:30 am Q Bible Study 1 pm L UMW	29 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	30	31

May Birthdays

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 2— Al Gaige | 6-Val Roberts | 13-Ruth Pinter | 18-Jean Sykes |
| 19— Ron Giacobassi | 23-Chris Sykes | 28-Jack Smith | |

Anniversaries

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-Ken & Janice Hamilton | 6-Jim & LindaKay Wildt | 17-Fred & Lorna McMillen |
| 29-Art & Millie Clark | | |



LITCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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.

MAY NEWSLETTER

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

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Thursday, May 1, Noon - Meet at the Flag Pole in the center of town for **National Day of Prayer** to pray for our nation. For more information, contact Pastor Julie at 517-607-6977.

Share faith