



A Note From Pastor Julie

Scripture Reference: Mark 6:30-32

It's September already and we all know what that means...the beginning of a new school year. If you or your student have not begun classes yet, the day is coming soon. The beginning of a new school year means a flurry of activities. The busyness of it all can be exciting and rewarding, yet at the same time overwhelming and draining if we are not careful. Where is the time to get centered in the midst of all this activity??

The disciples were also very busy people in their day. Jesus had sent them out two by two to various communities to teach, heal and cast out demons. Although they were very excited about what they were doing, the disciples became drained of their energy over time; some were too busy to eat! When they had all gathered to report back to Jesus about their missions, I can imagine they were all talking a mile a minute about their experiences - the good, the bad and the ugly. After hearing them, Jesus called them to go with him to a deserted place so that they could have a time of Sabbath rest and eat together.

In the midst of our busy days, it is important to take time for Sabbath rest and reconnection with God. It is easy to go and go and go and push and push and push and sooner or later we find ourselves burned out by all the demands of our days. It is not easy, but taking time away with God helps to fill us up and refreshes us. Ideally, we would dedicate a whole day to spending time with God and getting renewed. As many of us know, this is not always possible, as would be confirmed if we read further in Mark 6:33-42. People have needs – our kids, our grandkids, our family, our friends, and our community. Yet still in the midst of these interruptions, God calls us away to a deserted place. This time away could be when we first wake up in the morning, at noon over lunch, or in the evening as our day is winding down.

May you find time in this busy season of the year to connect with God and be refreshed anew to do all that God calls you to do.

Pastor Julie Yoder Elmore

BLOOD DRIVE

Red Cross Blood Drive - Wednesday, September 3, Noon-5:45 p.m. Donating blood is a simple thing to do, but it can make a big difference in the lives of others. Blood donations often decline during the summer months. Visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information.



OUTREACH TEAM NEWS

Summer Lunch Program

What a great year we've had!! Our Free Summer Lunch Program was very successful again this year. We served 633 meals to children over a 17-day period. We had 5 fewer serving days this year due to school being let out a week later, a day without power, and the July 4th holiday which fell on a Friday. We averaged 37 children per day. We had numerous donations, both food and monetary. We'd like to extend a very sincere Thank You to all of those who volunteered to prepare and serve the meals, those who helped with the children, and to all who donated their money, food, time, energy, and love into helping to provide meals to our community's children this year. ***You are All so very much Appreciated!!***

Sweet Corn Days Bake Sale

We had a terrific bake sale this year as well. Many members donated a wide variety of delectable baked goods and we had our corn-cob and candy corn crispy treats again. We raised \$583.76 for the **Imagine No Malaria** campaign through the United Methodist Church fundraiser. Because of our Community and Church efforts and resources, more people will be educated about Malaria and how it can be treated. This horrible disease kills many women and children each year in Africa.

We made a commitment of \$400.00 and surpassed that. All the monies will be sent to this cause. Again, we'd like to say Thank You to all the bakers, set-up and take-down crews, and workers who gave their time, energy and baking talents into making this year another great success!

Missionary Paul Webster

Our Missionary Paul Webster will be in our Albion District on September 2 and 3. At this time, we do not know if he will be able to visit our Litchfield and/or Quincy Church. He has 44 supporting churches in Michigan and only 14 days to visit. We hope he will be able to visit with us at one church or the other.

Until next time,
Sheila Gary
Outreach Team

BEETS

The produce stands are filled with a variety of vegetables this time of year. There is such an abundance of veggies and something for everyone's taste buds. The variety of flavors and textures clearly outnumber the menus at most restaurants and eateries. There's the mainstream foods with corn, asparagus, potatoes, and buns. Variety is still available. It still exists!



Gardens can produce and do produce that variety of veggies that are sometimes missing from mainstream menus. Green and yellow beans grow in similar soils within a couple feet of each other. Eggplants flourish in the same garden with the right amount of space and water. Slide over a few more feet and sweet corn towers over sweet peas and green peppers. Gooseneck yellow squash and red tomatoes in a variety of shapes, sizes, and textures all grow in the same garden.

Some people have shared with me their love of the garden flavors. Pickled beets seem to be a popular choice for a few people. I can still remember my mom's kitchen when she cooked beets. There was always a variety in her menu planning, compared to the mainstream menus at many eateries today.

"Let there be harmony... united in thought and purpose..." I Corinthians 1:12-13

Today, we can still find a variety. We find it at produce stands and even more importantly in our community of people. We find that variety of people with welders, mechanics, bakers, designers, seamsters, producers, caretakers, and more. All these people come together in one big garden. Different flavors meeting the taste-bud needs for a variety of people.

Tomatoes are high acidic vegetables (fruit), and beets are low acidic vegetables. Yet they can help fill a produce stand and feed people. We, too, can be a part of meeting, greeting, and filling the needs of people in a variety of ways. There's the energetic encouraging type of people to the low-keyed get-r-done folk!

"...we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future... there is only one God... who is over us all and in us all and living through us all." Ephesians 4:4a-6

So as the garden vegetable varieties come together adding flavor, color, texture, and nutrients that sustain people and lives, we, too, in our various lives can bring the good news of Jesus Christ and God to a community and people.

"Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and Glory to God!" Romans 15:6

Stay fresh with variety, Ron Giacobassi

HARCC (Hillsdale Area Rural Church Consultation)



A 40-year Homecoming is being planned for a co-operative ministries venture that formed in 1974. All past pastors and anyone else who remembers this group is invited to the Jonesville UMC on Concord Road on September 28. A potluck dinner is planned for 5:00 p.m. and will be followed with a singspiration (ongoing basically the fourth Sunday of each month since 1978). The evening will finish with fellowship and refreshments. Pastors may share their memories at the homecoming or send memories to be read to Bonnie Reichhardt, 1272 S. Hillsdale Road, Hillsdale, MI 49242. (HARCC chairperson). Looking forward to hearing from many and visiting again in September.

MONTHLY SCHEDULES

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

<i>September 7</i>	<i>September 14</i>	<i>September 21</i>	<i>September 28</i>	<i>October 5</i>
Doris Blonde Eleanor Wildt	Mike & Carol Ireland	Doug & Sharon Thompson	Marcia Ferry Lois Miller	Betty Peiffer Janice Teller

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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

<i>September 7</i>	<i>September 14</i>	<i>September 21</i>	<i>September 28</i>	<i>October 5</i>
Frank Hiser	Cheryl Sykes	Valery Roberts	Brett Smith	Tim Chilson

Special thanks to those listed above who are willing
to assist the pastor in Gathering Words and reading Scripture.
You are appreciated.

VBS HIGHLIGHTS



Gangway to Galilee: Amazing Grace Adventures

From August 3 to 7, our church was transformed with boats, kayaks, fishing equipment, a wooden dock, water toys, sea shells, and sea gulls. Children from age three to eighth grade acted out stories about Jesus' life on and around the Sea of Galilee, sang new songs, learned verses and how to use their Bibles, ate snacks, made crafts, and played a variety of water games.

Fifty-eight children participated during the week, 20 of whom came every night plus another 12 who attended four nights. High attendance of 44 children (including 16 pre-school and kindergarteners) was recorded on Thursday night. Each night throughout the week, about 28 adults and teens made all aspects of the program run smoothly. What a fun time the children had! I heard the adults enjoyed being kids again, too.

For this year's missions emphasis, children brought offerings to support the clean water projects in Africa that are sponsored by the United Methodist Church. A spirited competition took place between the girls (with their team captain, Pastor Julie) and the boys (with their team captain, Tim Chilson).

During the closing night program, which was attended by about 20 additional family members, the announcement of the team that had contributed the most was made. This year, the girls mightily defeated the boys, which resulted in a cold water bath for Tim. Pastor Julie was so excited with the gift total of \$569.62 that she, too, asked for a water-dunking, which Scottie Steele was happy to provide. Following ice cream sundaes and time to meet the parents, each family received a CD/DVD of the songs and memory verses to take home.

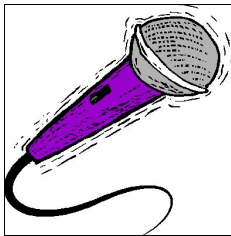
Thank you to all who helped to make this exciting week of ministry possible. Please pray for these wonderful children that they will continue to grow and serve God throughout their lives. We already look forward to next year when we can partner again with the Congregational Church to conduct VBS in Litchfield. God is good!

Sharon Thompson



Moving toward the Goal for a new Sound System

We are making good progress toward the goal to purchase the much-needed, new sound and computer equipment. Each week, more gifts are received. As of August 24, \$7,160 has been contributed in cash and pledges for the project. The cost for the first phase is \$7,248. Several microphone issues have developed in recent weeks, so it is important to raise some of the funds needed for phase two, as well. The projected cost for the total project is \$17,634.



Our church completed a successful Vacation Bible School in early August. (See article on page 6.) We wanted to show the children a video that would illustrate how important their pennies would be to provide clean water for families around the world. Unfortunately, our equipment was not adequate.

Please continue to pray that we will be able to move forward soon. Wouldn't it be exciting if much of the equipment could be in place for the Advent Season? We thank those who have already made a financial commitment. Through prayer and giving, we all will help the Litchfield United Methodist Church provide the best ministry possible.

Where are You Called to Serve @ LUMC in 2015??

It's that time of year again! It's time to discern who will serve in various roles within the life of the church in 2015. As members together in the Body of Christ, we are called to share our gifts and talents to utilize them for God's glory. Some of the opportunities available for you to pray about and discern serving through are the following teams:

Trustees; Nominations & Leadership; Staff Parish Relations Committee; Finance; Nurture/Witness; Outreach; and Administrative Council. For descriptions of these teams, contact Pastor Julie or the current chairs of the teams who are as follows:

Trustees – Frank Hiser

Nominations & Leadership – Pastor Julie Elmore & Janice Teller

Staff Parish Relations Committee – Tom Beckner

Finance – Jack Smith

Nurture/Witness – Sharon Thompson

Outreach – Sheila Gary

Administrative Council – Carol Ireland



FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS

LITCHFIELD UMC FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS – JULY 2014

	<u>July 2014</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income Toward Budget	\$ 5,594.93	\$ 60,867.21	\$ 100,500.00
Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 8,862.49</u>	<u>\$ 59,958.69</u>	<u>\$ 95,900.00</u>
Difference	(\$ 3,267.56)	\$ 908.52	\$ 4,600.00
Needed Monthly	\$ 8,375.00		
Designated Giving	\$ 3,452.00	\$ 17,373.48	
Ministry Shares Paid	\$ 687.00	\$ 5,778.25	\$ 11,114.00

United Methodist Women



Happy Fall Everyone!

If any lady would like to attend Albion District UMW Annual Meeting on September 13, 2014, at Bellevue UMC, registrations are due to Linda Luce by September 8, 2014. Forms are available at the church.

UMW Sunday will be during worship on September 21, 2014. Message will be given by Donna Smith, District President. Some of our members will also be taking part in the service.

On September 24, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall, our regular meeting will take place with a program by Linda Luce. We will also be discussing the upcoming turkey dinner and bazaar.

Remember, all are welcome to our meetings.

Carol Ireland, President

YOUTH GROUP



And just like that, another month has gone by. What fun and excitement we have had though! The youth group has only had two meetings since the last newsletter due to VBS! However, we did have a youth program for the VBS students for grades 6-8. That is different from our Youth Group age which is grades 7-12.

Pastor Julie and I are currently working out of a Youth Group book that we both enjoy, and the youth really seem to be able to get into. This curriculum starts with the basics before going too in-depth. We start with subjects like, "Who is God, "What is the Bible", etc. Our numbers are still consistent with about 8 students every Sunday, and I think if all the same faces showed up on any one Sunday, we could easily have 12-15 Youth students (what a number)! Another exciting thing is that we got the Youth Room cleaned up, and are using it once again for Youth meetings!

The Youth Group, remember, meets every 1st, 3rd, and any 5th Sundays from 5-7ish P.M. This is an important note because the 5th and 1st Sundays throw off the idea of an every-other-Sunday Youth Group. Our 5th Sundays are a 5th Sunday Fun Day. What that means is the Youth group decides where they want to go, to do something fun out in the community! Last Sunday (August 17) the youth decided they wanted to go to a Fun Park, on Sunday, August 31***!

I would like to once again thank everyone for their support on this Youth Group, and would like to send a special thanks to Sharon and Doug Thompson who provided our meal on August 17. And thank you to Carol Ireland who said she could provide a meal in the future. **If you would like to provide a meal (dinner) for the Youth Group, please let me or Pastor Julie know! You can contact me at 517-212-5925, or just pull me aside after church!**

*****ATTENTION YOUTH & YOUTH PARENTS:** August 31, we will be going to Adventure Zone in Coldwater. A group rate of \$15 a person will allow us to participate in 3 activities and gets us a pop! Please bring/send \$15 with the student for this activity. **Don't let money be the reason you don't come!!! ALL YOUTH ARE WELCOME!!!** Even if you missed the last meeting, you are still welcome to join on the 5th Sunday Fun Day. **We will meet at the church around 4:45 p.m., and leave at 5:00 p.m.! Students will be asked to call/text when we leave dinner with an ETA at the church!** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 517-212-5925 (text and call friendly). Thank you!

Zach Hiser

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR...

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

Debbie Kurtz
Heather Pitts
Bambi Lambright
Mindy Zigler
Dora Villarreal

Patty Johnson
Randy Jones
Dick Kaleida
Monique Yoder
Mary McMillen

Becky Cooper
Jean Sykes
Art Clark
Rita Chilson

Jason Hill
Garland Chapman
Olivia Estep
Betty Peiffer

Pray for Paul Webster, our missionary in Africa.

Pray for those struggling with finances.

Pray for teachers preparing for a new school year.

THANK YOU GOD

for the answered
prayers.

thankyougod.com

THANK YOU

I would like to thank you for the meal you provided following the funeral of my dad, Dewayne Thomas. We had many relatives travel from as far away as Rockford, Ohio. We *all* greatly appreciated your fellowship that day. Thank you again. Denise Porter and Family

Meijer Simply Give



People in our community continue to struggle every day to pay their bills and put food on their tables. Some are even forced to choose between the two, a heartbreaking decision that no one should have to make.

The Mission has been chosen to join forces with Meijer and their “**Simply Give**” food pantry donation campaign to help fill that void for local families and the homeless.

Simply Give helps nearly 200 food pantries in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky keep their shelves stocked with food for those in need. But it also fosters a sense of community by encouraging customers to purchase “\$10 Meijer Food Pantry Donation Cards”, now through September 27, available at checkout lanes. Each \$10 card is matched by Meijer, so your donation turns into \$20, then they are given to the Mission to stock the pantries. You can also pick up a card in the Narthex at church and take it to Meijer when you shop and donate \$10 or more to our local food pantry here in Litchfield.

Triple Days: September 4, 5, 6. You may turn your donation in at the church office and Kathy Blonde will see that it gets donated for the triple days. \$10=\$30! Thank you.

SEPTEMBER 2014



L-Litchfield Q-Quincy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please check the weekly bulletins for changes & up-	1 Labor Day Office and Food Pantry Closed	2 10 am L Bible Study	3 Noon-5:45 L Blood Drive	4 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6:30 pm Q Game Night	5	6
7 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship 5-7 pm L Youth Group	8 6 am L Prayer Time 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm Bible Study	9 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm L Outreach	10 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm L Nurture/Witness Mtg.	11 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	12	13 UMW Albion District Meeting
14 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	15 6 am L Prayer Time 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm Bible Study	16 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	17 9:30 am Q Bible Study 6 pm L Finance 7 pm L Ad. Council	18 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	19	20
21 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship (UMW Sunday) 5 pm L Youth Group 5 pm HARCC Potluck & Sing @ Jonesville	22 6 am L Prayer Time 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm Bible Study	23 10 am L Bible Study	25 9:30 am Q Bible Study 1 pm L UMW Mtg.	25 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	26	27
28 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	29 6 am L Prayer Time 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	30 10 am L Bible Study	.		If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please call the church office with your Information.	

September Birthdays

8-Debra Barrington
8-Marge Beckner
8-Todd Johnson
11-Ella Hamrick
12-Mick Dickinson
19-Janis White
25-Lorie Dickinson
28-Sean Sykes
29-Wes Sutton

Anniversaries

9-Dick & SueAnn Kaleida
14-Dan & Nancy Moore
20- David & Cecelia Evans



BUSINESS NAME

**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](https://www.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.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Sunday School 9:45 AM

Worship 11:00 AM