

Volume 32 Issue 4

APRIL 2015



LITCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ILLUMINATIONS



A Note From Pastor Julie

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Christ is Alive! On the first Sunday in April, we in the Christian Community will celebrate Easter, a day we boldly proclaim the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 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 (whom 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. The beloved disciple 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 still inside.

Both Peter and the beloved disciple 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 go and share the good news that he is risen with the disciples and others.

We, like Mary, cannot keep the news of the resurrection to ourselves. We must not hold on to Jesus for ourselves only. 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. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Christ is alive!

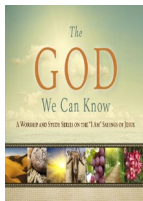
God bless you,

Pastor Julie



Remaining Lenten Study Schedule

Wednesday, April 1, at Quincy
Monday, April 6, at Litchfield
Wednesday, April 8, at Quincy



Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 4, 2015

2:00 p.m.

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

Come early to register!

We will share an Easter story.

Lent and Holy Week Services



Palm Sunday—March 29, 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 2, 5:45 pm at Quincy UMC. Joint service between Quincy and Litchfield United Methodist Churches. The service begins with a potluck.

Community Good Friday – April 3, 7:00 pm at Litchfield UMC.
Pastor Mike Murray will be preaching.

Easter Egg Hunt—Saturday, April 4, 2:00 p.m. Come early to register.

Easter Sunrise – April 5, 7:00 am at Litchfield UMC with breakfast and fellowship to follow.

Easter Service—April 5, 11:00 am at Litchfield UMC.

Wanted:
Musicians
Any talents
Summer Travel
9 Amazing Weeks
Flex Schedule
Meet People
Light Duty Work

Vagabonds?* Minstrels?* Gypsies?* A Mission?* Moving from place to place without a home. A troupe of musical entertainers. A migratory way of life. A course of sermons and services given to quicken Christian Faith.

All of the above woven into a summer program from Greenville College (Illinois) by musically inclined students. A program to bring the message of Jesus Christ, of the love He gave and shared for everyone then and everyone now.

The band, Pursuit 2014, comes together. Five musicians with two audio engineers. Ages 18-22. Guys and gals. Two on guitars. A drummer. One bassist. One on keyboards/ keytar. Three of them doing vocals. Two on sound boards keeping the music in balance.

This Pursuit troupe traveled miles and miles to Christian campgrounds for teenage youth and families in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan. And even a stop in Hillsdale. Justin, Chris, Rebecca, Nathan, and Jason comprised the musical sounds. Jessica and Cody balanced that sound through the audio-boards.

So, now we're thinking: guitars-drums-electronic keys-noise-LOUD-amplifiers-Christian Rock-can't understand words-what are they saying?

"For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107:9

The campers were hungry to hear a message. The band thought a few songs of inspiration—hey, we're done here. However, these were week-long events. Hundreds of people. Traveling from one camp to the next. Each one new. Each one different.



They chaperoned each other. A 15-seat van to hold every piece of equipment AND at least one change of socks. Everything was carefully and strategically packed and unpacked at every change of venue. Meals at the camps. Cabins with bunks at the camps. Rehearsals at the camps. So far so good. An interview with Justin said they also were counselors when needed. Wait? What? That wasn't in the job description! Remember—light duty work?

Mark 1:17, "... come be my disciples and I will show you how to fish for people. And they left..."

...their comfort zones to bring the message in new ways. One week of campers had 600 plus people according to Justin. Asked if they felt like rock stars, he didn't really say they did. However, he said, "the best was bringing all people together including the band and spreading the word of Christ."

The music was tailored to each camp by the emotions felt day to day through interacting with campers and directors. Screaming guitars? Standing audiences with raised hands? Loud drum solos? Amazing grace - a Capella? All of the above woven into a summer program by 7 student musicians on a mission, bringing Jesus Christ's words to life!

(Continued on page 6)

Outreach Team

- ♦ **Meijer Simply Give** program is here! We've been chosen again to receive the money donated for our Food Pantry. It runs from March 29-May 11. Please take note that **DOUBLE MATCH DAYS** are April 17 and 18. \$10 Meijer cards are available in the Narthex at the church. You may give your donation to Kathy Blonde or turn it in at the church office and Kathy will see that it arrives on time for the double match! This can also be done at the store when you are there throughout the dates, but only doubles on April 17 and 18.
\$10 can turn into \$30 ! Thank you so much for your support.



- ♦ **June Garage Sale Weekend:** June 4, 5, and 6, 8:00 to ? Mark and Kathy Blonde will have the church's items to sell at their location. We will have tons of stuff. Anyone who wishes to **VOLUNTEER** will be greatly appreciated! Proceeds from the garage sale will go to the Summer Free Lunch Program.



ON-GOING MISSION SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY



The Outreach Team has decided to help with the support of Cheryl Sykes' sister, Amy Haroff, serving as a missionary, teaching English to young people in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Cheryl is offering you the opportunity to place orders for the baked goods listed below. The proceeds will go towards this mission project.

Qty.

Qty.

_____ White Bread (1½ lb. loaf)	_____ Wheat Bread (1½ lb. loaf)
_____ Italian Herb Bread (1½ lb. loaf)	_____ Hot Cross Buns (for Easter time)
_____ Other breads – please specify your request	_____ Chocolate Chip Cookies
_____ Old Fashioned Sugar Cookies	_____ Soft Molasses Cookies
_____ Other cookies – please specify type	

Please contact Cheryl at church, or by phone, text or e-mail, if you wish to place an order. Cell # is 269-967-7868, and e-mail at tootall8718@yahoo.com. Please allow at least a few days notice before you need the item delivered. Prices are by donation, although we request a minimum donation of \$3/loaf of bread, \$5 for rolls, and \$2.50/dozen of cookies. All proceeds will go entirely to Amy. Checks should be payable to LUMC.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for the card and treat for Valentine's Day! I love reading all of the names from home. Research is moving along and I am a TA again. Though I'm staying very busy, I make sure to take a break to two-step now and then. ☺

Thank you again for thinking of me!

Hugs and smiles, Cassie



Dear Friends,

I just want to thank you all for the wonderful card and basket of goodies that helped tempt Greg's appetite when nothing tasted too good to him. Thank you, too, for the hugs, kindness and prayers you kept coming our way. It's wonderful to live in a small community with such wonderful people.

The Gilbert Family (Jackie, Gregory, Jessica, and Todd)

Upcoming Special Services

Holy Humor Sunday-April 12

On the first Resurrection morning, God played the biggest joke on the Devil by raising Jesus from the dead. On Holy Humor Sunday, we celebrate by weaving humor through the worship service.



Blessing of the Farmers Sunday-April 19



Area Farmers are invited to come and worship at LUMC on April 19 at 11:00 a.m. During the service, we will bless the farmers as they prepare to plant seeds in their work to feed the world. Invite your favorite farmers to be there!

Liturgy and Refreshment Schedule

LITURGIST

April 5 - Tom Beckner
April 12 - Frank Hiser
April 19 - Cheryl Sykes
April 26 - Valery Roberts



COFFEE HOUR

April 5 - Leftovers from Easter Breakfast
April 12—Betty Peiffer and Janice Teller
April 19—Ron and Velvet Giacobassi
April 26—Clara Dawson and Ella Hamrick



Pursuit (Continued)

The director/coordinator, Marc Anderson, said he could easily send out 5 or 6 summer troupes instead of just 2 Pursuit teams. The program is in-house funded, and they do what they can do for now.

A program with gas cards, food cards, locations, electronic maps, and a passion for His Word. Justin says, "It was fun, and we made a connection with campers as counselors, still in touch on that journey to/with Christ."

This Resurrection Sunday, Easter, take on that spirited summer program from Greenville College. Pursuit

"If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me." Jeremiah 29:13

*Pursue—Him
Ron Jacobassi*

A Note From Your Finance Secretary



As we near the end of the 1st Quarter of 2015 (can you believe it!), please take a moment to consider your pledges from the beginning of the year and where you may be now in proportion to meeting your goal. If you would like me to check for you to see where you are in comparison to where you would like to be, please give me a call & I will be more than happy to check for you. My cell phone number is 517-397-3267. If I am unable to answer, please leave me a message, and I will return your call as soon as possible. Thank you! ~ Valery~

Native American Ministries Sunday

Sunday, April 19, 2015

Your generous gifts support Native American ministries within the annual conference: Provide scholarships for Native Americans attending seminary (administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry); and strengthen, develop and equip Native American ministries (related to the General Board of Global Ministries).

YOUR DECISION TO GIVE educates Native American seminarians and empowers outreach into Native American culture.



United Methodist Women

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be Prayer & Self-Denial with a special offering. Hostesses are Janice & Ruth Hamilton. All ladies are welcome to any of our meetings.

Happy Spring!

Carol Ireland, President



Remember to pray for...

Prayers for those in nursing homes and assisted living:

Elnora Beckner, Geri Bennett, Willie Hinkle, Lorene Ladd, Wes Sutton, and Marilyn Wade

Debbie Kurtz	Patty Johnson	Jason Hill	Garland Chapman
Bambi Lambright	Ruth Hamilton	Dick Kaleida	Dora Villarreal
Betty Peiffer	Mindy Zigler	Monique Yoder	Jeff Warren
Pat Smith	Isabelle Russell	Glenn Hackworth	Hazel Rice
Amy Haroff	Taylor Nelson	Shelby Gonser	Cheri Smith
Damian Ridenour	Mick Dickinson	Sharon Nevins	Dylan Estep
Vernetta King	Karen Branstetter	Tammy Johnson	Phyllis Hoag
Gene Campbell	Tom Masarik	Sharon Nevins	Bob Ochsenrider
		Olga Elser	Pat McMillen



Pray for Paul Webster, our missionary in Africa.

Pray for those who seek to grow in faith.

Pray for farmers as they prepare to plant their crops.

Upcoming Vacation Bible School



Plans are underway for Vacation Bible School 2015

Sunday, August 2, through Thursday, August 6

6:00-8:30 p.m.

Please mark your calendars and watch future newsletters for more information.

Race Car Show



1st Annual RACECAR Car Show at the Litchfield United Methodist Church!

****Hosted by the LUMC Youth Group!***

When: The EVENT will start at 10:00am, Saturday April 18, 2015

****Racecar parking will begin at 9:00am!****

Where: In the parking lot of the Litchfield United Methodist Church!
-160 Marshal Street, Litchfield!

Who: ALL RACECARS ARE WELCOME! Drag cars, dirt cars, pavement cars, karts, micro sprints, mini sprints, Front-wheel drive, ect.

****Registration for the racecars is \$5!***

****Judging will begin at 11:00am for prettiest car in overall, fendered, non-fendered, and winged categories! Winners will receive a prize!***

Questions? Call or text Zach Hiser at 517-212-5925, or e-mail at hiserracing1313@gmail.com!

*****ALL proceeds will go to the Youth Group fund!*****



The GOOD Stuff Club

A gathering of children who will have fun learning about the
"GOOD Stuff" in God's Word
Club meetings will offer Bible stories; songs, games, and fun activities.
HEALTHY SNACKS will be served!

Who: Kindergarten through 4th grade

When: Wednesdays, April 15 and 29, and May 6, 2015 from 2:15-3:45 p.m.

Where: The Litchfield United Methodist Church

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

Parents are responsible for transportation after the meeting.



Cost: FREE! FREE! FREE!

Registration slips must be received before a student can attend.

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

The GOOD Stuff Club - Spring 2015
(one registration/permission slip per child)

Student's name: _____ Age _____ Grade _____
Parents name(s): _____ Primary phone: _____
Street Address: _____ City: _____
Home email address: _____ Alternate phone: _____
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: _____

CROP WALK 2015

The Hillsdale County Crop Walk will be held Sunday, May 3, 2015. This walk will begin at Luther Hall in Hillsdale located behind Johnny-T's. Registration at 1:30 p.m. The walk actually begins at 2:00 p.m. and will follow the walking trail to Baw Beese Lake and back to Luther Hall.

Anyone willing to walk can call or see Janice Teller (517-542-3628) to get a donor's envelope to record money collected from sponsors. The envelope with the money collected must be turned in the day of the walk.

Twenty-five percent (25%) stays in Hillsdale County. This amount is divided equally between:

Salvation Army
Kings Kupboard
Litchfield Food Pantry
Life Line (near Camden)



The remaining 75% is distributed throughout the U.S. and world to help families develop "sustainable ways to put food on their tables."

Pastor Away for Continuing Education



Pastor Julie will be away beginning the evening of Sunday, May 10 through Saturday, May 16, for a continuing education event on preaching in Denver, Colorado. The name of the event is Festival of Homiletics. If you would like information on this event, you may go to www.festivalofhomiletics.com.

Update on Sound System ~ Praise

Piece by piece the new sound and multi-media system has been installed. So far, we have a new soundboard, new computer with two monitors, new television screens in the fellowship hall and nursery, as well as a new video camera. Services can now be viewed on the television screens in both the fellowship hall and nursery!! There is now a sound system with microphone for use in the fellowship hall!! We are still working on getting speakers installed in the narthex, and a new PowerPoint projector in the sanctuary. In addition, the hearing devices are now working in the sanctuary again, which means that those who could not hear previously can now hear the services. We have also started using the hearing devices during weekly Bible study and meetings, which meet in the narthex. Thank you to all for your generous contributions to make our services, studies, meetings, and more even more accessible to our church family and guests!





2015

L-Litchfield Q-Quincy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please check the weekly bulletins for changes, updates, & locations.			1 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 6 pm Q Guys Night Out	2 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer Group 5:45 Potluck and Maundy Thursday	3 7 pm L Community Good Friday Service	4 2 pm L Easter Egg Hunt 1 pm L-Girl Scouts
5 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 7 am L Sunrise Service & Breakfast 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship Easter Celebration	6 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 6:30 p.m. L Lenten Study	7 10 am L Bible Study 6 pm L Trustees 7 pm L Outreach	8 6 am L Prayer 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm Q Lenten Study	9 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6:30 Q Game Night 7 pm—L Nurture Team	10	11 UMW—"Keep Making Peace" @ University UMC 1 pm L Girl Scouts
12 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship 1-3 pm L Youth 5:30 pm L Cub Scouts	13 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 7 pm L Bible Study	14 10 am L Bible Study	15 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 2:15 pm L Good Stuff Club 6 pm L Finance Team 7 pm Ad Council	16 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	17	18 10 am L Youth Race Car Show 1 pm L Girl Scouts
19 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	20 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Cub Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	21 10 am L Bible Study 1 pm L UMW 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	22 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study	23 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	24	25 9 am L Girl Scout Leader's Training (concludes @ 4 pm)
26 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship 1-3 pm L Youth Group	27 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Cub Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	28 10 am L Bible Study	29 2:15 pm L Good Stuff Club	30 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer		

April Birthdays

2-Kyle Wildt
 4-Marcia Ferry
 5-Jacob Dickinson
 6-Carl Sykes
 7-Tom Beckner
 7-Cecelia Evans
 7-Frank Hiser
 12-Lonny Koons
 12-Ashleigh Pitts
 13-Alaina Blonde
 13-Ray Wendorf
 18-Mike Bills
 20-Barb Mester
 22-Becca Roberts
 26-Doug Thompson
 27-Mark Blonde

Anniversaries

15-Mike & Carol Ireland
 18-Gale & Twila Smith





LITCHFIELD UNITED 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

Pastor: Julie Yoder Elmore

E-Mail: jyelmor@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.

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2015



Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

Youth Group

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday

1:00-3:00 p.m.