



A Note From Pastor Julie

Summer is here – well unofficially since Memorial Day, but officially begins on June 21 at 12:38 pm EST according to the Farmer’s Almanac! After another snowy winter and a relatively cool spring, it’s time to enjoy all that summer has to offer, including picnics, excursions to your favorite ice cream shop, outdoor swimming, camping, water sports, boating, watching beautiful sunrises and sunsets, and lemonade on the very hottest days! Recently, David, Oliver, and I took our first kayaking venture of the year with a friend on the Kalamazoo River between Hanover Rd. and Folks Rd., somewhere between Litchfield and Concord. Even though the sun was behind the clouds and rain was threatening, we wanted to be out enjoying God’s creation.

When we arrived at the place we planned to enter the water, we discovered that many other people had the same plan we did. At least twenty vehicles already lined the road, however, we were still not deterred. Instead of putting in where the others were getting into the water, we decided to put in on the other side of the bridge. Our friend seemed to get into the water fairly gracefully, despite the muckiness. Then, I helped Oliver get into David’s kayak, and ended up getting into the muck above my knees. It was pretty gross and I ended up tearing one of my Crocs as I freed it from the muck. Eventually, I made my way into the water, past the muck and to the cleaner water where I actually got into my own kayak.

As I kayaked with my ‘crew’ down the Kalamazoo River for the next hour and a half, I reflected on what a blessing it was to see things I do not get to see from traveling on the road. I saw a turtle sitting on one of the rocks just watching the multitudes travel on by. I also saw a muskrat carrying something as it swam off to my right. A section of water lilies appeared at one point, welcoming and encouraging our journey. In addition, I got to watch 18-month-old Oliver simply enjoy himself, taking in all his surroundings, and watching bigger kids kayak and canoe with their parents.

Later, I found myself wondering what other parts of life and the world many (myself included) do not see and experience because the journey may be too time consuming or take more effort than usual. God is all around us, reminding us to take time to truly be in God’s presence at all times, in all that we do. Sometimes when we look up from our norm and focus on what “seems” so important at the time, God reminds us that the true focus of our hearts and minds is serving God and others, as well as being in the presence of the Lord.

My hope and prayer is that we all experience God in amazing ways throughout this summer!

Blessings,

Pastor Julie Elmore

JUNE EVENTS

* **West Michigan Annual Conference, June 4-7, 2015.**

at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Be in prayer for all members of Conference as they discern spiritual questions and worship in the rich way we know as United Methodists. Pastor Julie and Anne Rumsey will be representing the Litchfield-Quincy charge this year.



Thursday-Sunday, June 4-7 • Calvin College • Grand Rapids

* **City-Wide Garage Sale**—June 4, 5, and 6, 8:00 a.m. to ?



at Mark and Kathy Blonde's. There are tons of stuff to display and price, and we could use your help. Come and help out for a little time or as long as you'd like. It usually runs between 8 a.m. until 4-5 p.m. You can choose your own time to come and help out. There is shade and it's comfortable with a bathroom in their barn and often there is coffee and snacks. It'll be fun!!! Hope to see you there! Thank you to everyone who has given goods for this sale, which will support the Summer Lunch Program and Vacation Bible School!

* **Open House**—Saturday, June 6, 1-4 p.m. Please join us in wishing Ruth Hamilton a "Happy 90th Birthday" in the Fellowship Hall of LUMC! In place of gifts, we are making Ruth a "Birthday Scrapbook." Please share your memories, a story, or poem and a picture or two of your family. If you are unable to attend but would like to send Ruth a card, her address is, 10556 Herring Rd., Litchfield, MI 49252. Ph. 517-542-3619.



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* **Summer Lunch Program**—The fun begins Monday, June 8, 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 through July 31, volunteers will prepare and serve hot and wholesome meals for any child up to age 17 who comes. There are many areas where help is needed. See Laura Cierpilowski or Lois Miller if you would like to help or need more information. You may also call the church office at 542-3366.

* **U.M.W. Ladies Day Away**—Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at noon. We will be going to the Outpost Grill in Allen, MI. We will meet at the church to carpool at 11:15 a.m. A sign-up sheet is available at the church or call the office at 542-3366. All ladies are invited to attend. No additional meeting in June.



Eight ladies attended the Quincy Spring Luncheon. A very nice lunch and program on UMC Camps was enjoyed by all. Thank you, Quincy ladies.

Ice Cream with the Pastor ~ Thursday, June 11



Have you just begun attending Litchfield UMC over the last several months and want to know more about the life and ministries of Litchfield UMC?? Are you thinking about becoming a member of Litchfield UMC?? If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, do we have an invitation for you! Come to the Litchfield City Park (across from Cream Supreme) on Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 pm. While enjoying some scrumptious ice cream or other treat, those who are gathered will learn and discuss the history of the United Methodist, who we are as a denomination, what our local church is all about, and how our church continues to be a place to grow in faith in Jesus

Christ. If you are interested in attending, please call or text Pastor Julie at 517-607-6977. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Baptisms

All are invited to
The Baptisms of Savannah Reese Nye and Ava Elizabeth Nye
Daughters of Tyler and Alison Nye

Sunday, June 14, 11:00 am
at Litchfield United Methodist Church



Special Fellowship Time to Follow
Come witness God's mighty work in Savannah and Ava

Liturgy and Refreshment Schedule

LITURGIST

June 7 - Cheryl Sykes
June 14 -Valery Roberts
June 21 - Tom Beckner
June 28 - Zach Hiser



COFFEE HOUR

June 7 - Al & Nancy Gaige
June 14 - Betty Peiffer and Janice Teller
June 21 - Father's Day Treat
June 28—Ron & Velvet Giacobassi

Ah, Fresh!!



We knew it would come. The days stay light longer. The temperature is on the rise. The ground warms and we see new life again. And the Farmers' Markets are opening for business.

The vendors start the season off slow bringing items such as maple syrup, locally grown popcorn, and flowers to plant and enjoy.

The spring is still early, but soon there will be more to offer at the markets. Strawberries and sweet corn coming up from the southern states hold us over until the locals can harvest. It will be an anticipated harvest of fresh and good-tasting vegetable varieties since most are just sprouting through that warm ground.

We breathe in scents of lilacs, lily of the valley, honeysuckle, and fresh mowed alfalfa/hay. "Ah, ah, ah-choo" for some. Those scents bring pollens, too, turning that freshness into stuffy, blocked sinuses for some. This can really make it a challenge to see and experience new life. With the right changes and possibly over-the-counter allergy relief, clearer days can be ours.

June is kick-off to summer, with people on the move, weekend celebrations, day trips, traveling, and more. This is a gradual change we all look forward to. Just as the Farmers' Markets will gradually increase varieties of foods offered, we, too, can add to our growth and experience with other Christians.

If you're away from home on some of those summer weekends, look for "road side" opportunities to connect at a church along the way. Take daily scripture readings with you such as the Upper Room. Or, connect with Our Daily Bread through the internet. Try one of those Christian radio stations in this area, 89.3, 90.1, 90.9, or 96.7.

Keep adding to a newness within you. Three minutes a day with thought toward God can lead to a fulfilled and quenched spiritual appetite.

*"...those who become Christians become new persons...A new life has begun!
All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did."
2 Corinthians 5: 17-18*

Take in some fresh, take in some God.

"He has created us anew in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:8

Ah, ah, ah-choose!!

-Ron Jacobassi



Our 2015 Graduates

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jessica Roberts
Jonesville High School

Emily Roberts
Litchfield High School



Litchfield UMC to Participate in Vital Church Initiative “Phase 1”



The Litchfield United Methodist Church has been invited to participate in an opportunity called Vital Church Initiative “Phase 1,” which will begin in January 2016. Vital Church Initiative (VCI) is a process with resources, tools, suggestions, and support that helps congregations move forward (from wherever they are), becoming better Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. Litchfield UMC is one of a limited number of

churches that have been invited to explore this opportunity because leaders in the Albion District sense that Litchfield UMC is already demonstrating vitality and showing a potential to continue to grow and learn. Being invited to be part of this opportunity is a compliment to our church leadership and congregation!

At their May 2015 meeting, the Administrative Council voted to participate in a special three-session event in Fall 2015 to help us evaluate our own “Ministry Potential and Vitality” before beginning VCI. These sessions will build upon each other and help us do some very healthy looking at ourselves and reflecting. We will be doing so in the company of other churches in the Albion District that are doing the very same thing. Attending this three-session event does not obligate us to go forward with VCI Phase 1.

What an exciting way for us to respond to Jesus’ invitation in Matthew 4:19, which says, “Come, follow me,” he said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” (CEB) More information can be found at <http://www.westmichiganconference.org/pages/detail/2706>. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Julie at 517-607-6977 or jjelmore@gmail.com.

OUTREACH—Pantry News

Good news for the Pantry which just received a grant through **Hillsdale County Community Foundation** in the amount of \$2500. This was deposited into our account at South Central Michigan Food Bank in Battle Creek. This should help our pantry for much of the rest of 2015. However, this is not the only source of food for the pantry.

Through the **Meijer Simply Give program** we received some money from the double and triple match donations from the recent campaign. Thank you all who contributed! Over the past year and a half, Kathy Blonde has developed a good relationship with Meijer and she's made them aware of our food pantry. They continue to rotate us into their Simply Give Program at different times through the year.



Meijer now has a new way to offer our pantry greater discounts on items we order. Kathy will place orders for the pantry online through the Meijer order site. The stock will come from the warehouse and be ready for pick up. No more shopping and taking stock from the store shelves. Plus the Simply Give account will go further with the greater discounts! Thank you, Meijer!



Something that needs our attention is the **need for more volunteers**. Do you know someone, young or old, who has time on their hands and who could use a little encouragement from YOU to come join our Pantry volunteer team? Please think of who you may know and then tell them about the wonderful work our pantry is doing in our community and county. The work is not hard and it would only be 3 hours per month! Help a friend or neighbor get involved!

Kathy continues to lead the pantry very successfully, but could really use another person to learn the things that she does and perhaps alternate the responsibility with her. Kathy wants the pantry to be prepared and carry on seamlessly in the event she is unable to place orders. You can contact Kathy at her home, 517-542-3672, or leave a message at the church office if you are interested. We offer up this request to prayer knowing someone or someones will listen to the Lord speaking encouragement to their heart.

Attention Gardeners!

If you have surplus from your gardens this summer, please remember the pantry would love to include fresh fruits and veggies in our pantry offerings! Thank you all who have grown and given so generously in the past! It is much appreciated!



Remember to pray for...

Prayers for those in nursing homes and assisted living: Elnora Beckner, Geri Bennett, Willie Hinkle, Lorene Ladd, Wes Sutton, Marilyn Wade, and Ruth Wooden

Family and Friends:

Garland Chapman	Gene Campbell	Shelby Gonser	Glenn Hackworth
Ruth Hamilton	Rolland Hankey	Amy Haroff	Jason Hill
Phyllis Hoag	Patty Johnson	Dick Kaleida	Debbie Kurtz
Bambi Lambright	Tom Masarik	Taylor Nelson	Betty Peiffer
Debbie Peiffer	Hazel Rice	Isabelle Russell	Cheri Smith
Pat Smith	Damian Ridenour	Dora Villarreal	Monique Yoder
Mindy Zigler	Kate Banks	David Bollen	Bonnie Adams
Karon Branstetter	Pat McMillen	Melissa Hegwood	Claude Miller
Pam Purdy			

Pray for Paul Webster, our missionary in Africa.
Pray for soldiers serving far from home.

Pray for graduates of all levels.
Pray for someone who has lost touch with God.

Guest Preachers During Summer @ Litchfield UMC

Pastor Julie will be out of town for several Sundays this summer between attending the West Michigan Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, going to clergy & family camp at Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater, attending the School of Congregational Development in Indianapolis, and vacationing in Colorado. In her absence, the following people will be our guest preachers:



June 7 – Tim Chilson

September 13 – Heidi Rawson

June 21 – Tom Beckner

September 20 (United Methodist Women Sunday) –

August 16 – Don Lee

Tamara Williams, Albion District Superintendent

Please help in welcoming the visiting preachers and supporting the speakers within our own

Red Cross Thank You

On behalf of the American Red Cross and the **66 people** who may now receive either plasma, platelets or red blood cells, please accept our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your support of these LIFESAVING events at Litchfield United Methodist Church!!! We cannot SAVE LIVES without you!!!

Do you know that in 2014, Litchfield United Methodist Church blood program allowed us to provide plasma, platelets or red blood cells to over 450 people?



Vacation Bible School



“Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid.”
Sunday, August 2-Thursday, August 6, 6-8 p.m.
For children, age 3-Grade 6

VBS planning is well under way for another fantastic time of learning. We have an exciting theme as children will go back in time to experience life as Jesus did when he was a boy. In addition to singing new songs, engaging in Bible stories presented by his mother, Mary, and participating in games that Jesus may have played, each night children will visit the Nazareth marketplace. Stations in which they may choose to stop include the food market, carpentry shop, bead bazaar, dye shop, synagogue school, olive oil shop, and farmer’s field.

We still need some helpers before and during the week of VBS. If you would like to be part of this dynamic church ministry, please contact Sharon Thompson (542-3315) or Pastor Julie. Soon, we will post lists of items we need for the marketplace or for decorating on the bulletin board. Thank you.

We appreciate all prayers for the children who attend and the workers who will teach and supervise these young ones.



Thank You

To my loving church family and friends -

When families are going through difficult times the outpouring of love and concern from others means so much. Your faithful prayers for my sister, Sharon, while she was fighting cancer provided great encouragement to both her and her family. We miss her deeply, but are comforted in knowing she is now with the Lord and one day we will be reunited. God bless you for your loving support!

Marcia Ferry

Financial Synopsis

LITCHFIELD UMC FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS – APRIL 2015

	Apr. 2015	Year-to-Date	Budget
Income Toward Budget	\$ 9,136	\$ 32,144	\$ 114,000
Budget Expenses	\$ 9,466	\$ 36,286	\$ 113,753
Difference	\$ (330)	\$(4,142)	\$ 247

Needed Monthly to Meet Church Budget: \$ 9,500

Designated Giving: \$ 2,497 (April); \$14,140.50 (Year-to-Date)

Ministry Shares Paid to Date: \$3,813 (33.42%)

June 2015

L-Litchfield Q-Quincy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please check the weekly bulletins for changes, updates, and locations.	1 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 7 pm L Bible Study	2 10 am L Bible Study	3 6 am L Prayer 9:30 am Q Bible Study 6 pm Q Men's Night	4 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	5	6 1-4 pm L Open House Ruth Hamilton's 90th
7 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship 1 pm L Youth Group	8 L Summer Lunch Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 7 pm L Bible Study	9 10 am L Bible Study 6 pm L Trustees 7 pm L Outreach 7 pm Nurture	10 6 am L Prayer 9:30 am Q Bible Study L Summer Lunch	11 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6:30 pm L Ice Cream with Pastor Julie	12 L Summer Lunch	13 9 a.m. L Trustee's Work Day—Helpers Needed
14 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	15 L Summer Lunch Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 7 pm L Bible Study	16 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	17 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study L Summer Lunch 6 pm L Finance 7 pm L Ad. Council	18 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	19 L Summer Lunch	20
21 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship with Father's Day treat during Fellowship Hour 1 pm L Youth Group	22 L Summer Lunch Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 7 pm L Bible Study	23 10 am L Bible Study	24 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study L Summer Lunch Noon L UMW Ladies Day Away at Outpost Grill in Allen	25 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	26 L Summer Lunch	27
28 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 Jerome UMC	29 L Summer Lunch Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 7 pm L Bible Study	30 10 am L Bible Study				

June Birthdays

1—Tim Chilson
1—James Smith
2—Thomas Jones
3—Ken Cierpilowski
6—Ruth Hamilton
7—Lori Beckner
13—John Pinter
21—JoAnn Edwards
21—Tom Masarik
24—Lorene Ladd
26—Yesica Jones
28—Kelly White
29—Janice Teller

Anniversaries

1—Larry & Bev Reasoner
20—Scott & Deb Barrington
25—Bill & Jan Childs
27—Mike & Judy Bills





LITCHFIELD UNITED BUSINESS NAME

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517-542-3366

E-mail: umclitchfield@gmail.com

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.

JUNE NEWSLETTER 2015

