



## A Note From Pastor Julie

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“There’s no stopping him now!” Oliver hit yet another important milestone in his life!! He is walking all over the place and getting into more than he ever got into before! He’s also smiling more than ever! Although we are generally excited whenever Oliver reaches a new milestone, David and I constantly have to readjust how we have always done things as a couple in order to adapt to the changes in Oliver’s development! I’ll be honest it is frustrating when Oliver gets into my make-up drawer and I cannot find things when I need them because we have not yet had the chance to baby proof that particular drawer! However, in the midst of Oliver keeping us on our toes with the baby proofing, many blessings are pouring forth! Some of those blessings are that he is on-track in his development; we get to experience the joy of making fun memories as a family, and to see God’s creation right before our very eyes!!

When a church grows, just like when a child does, readjusting to a new normal is constant. Several weeks ago in a sermon, I mentioned that Litchfield UMC saw a 7% increase in worship attendance in 2014 over 2013. We have had an increase of 5 members in our congregation since a year ago at this time with the potential of even more. There were 25 people in attendance at our first Lenten study on February 23, with many new people participating over last year! There has also been an increase in the number of people attending adult Sunday School! We have resurrected a youth group, increased in participation in Junior Church, and have more kids in the nursery. Little by little pieces of our sound and multi-media systems are being installed and implemented which opens more possibilities in how we worship each week. We are in the midst of exciting times as our church is experiencing growth once again! This is not just growth in the number of participants, but also growth spiritually!! Praise God for all of this!

In the midst of all this growth, there are going to be times of change. Sometimes change is going to come quickly and other times change is going to happen slowly. Sometimes the changes are going to ruffle feathers and other times changes are going to happen naturally. Whatever the case may be, as Sisters and Brothers in Christ in the community of faith called Litchfield United Methodist Church, we must be patient with one another and in prayer for one another in the midst of these changes. We must also be patient with and in prayer for ourselves. We cannot always expect things to go smoothly. We cannot always expect things to go our way. Those of you who have been part of our church for a long time will experience change as you welcome and incorporate newer people. Those of you who have only just begun attending our church are already in the midst of change as you learn everyone’s name and what church means right now in our context. Those of you in places in between continue to experience change as you learn, welcome, and incorporate. Ultimately, the church is God’s church, and we are called to be faithful to God and God’s plan for Litchfield UMC.

One thing I am personally working on this Lenten season is having more patience. I have found that I personally want things to be perfect right away and get annoyed when the change is a longer process than I expected. Maybe I’m a product of my generation who does not even know what life was like before microwaves. No, I really do not think so. As humans in general, our instinct is to want things now! However it’s not about us, but about glorifying God and honoring how God is leading us to take the next faithful step in our lives together as we lead others to Christ and grow deeper in our own faith.

Looking forward to growing together in Christ!

God’s Blessings, Pastor Julie

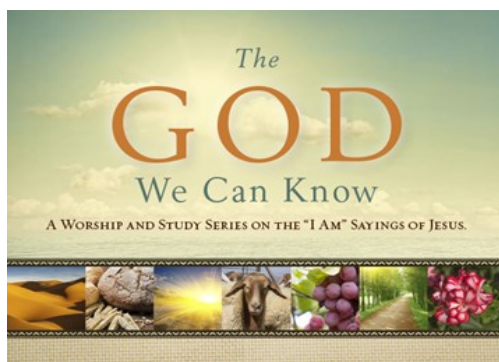
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## Lenten Study Schedule

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**Mondays—6:30 P.M. at Litchfield UMC**

March 2  
March 9  
March 16  
March 23  
March 30  
April 6



**Wednesdays—7:00 p.m. at Quincy UMC**

March 4  
March 11  
March 18  
March 25  
April 1  
April 8

## Easter Worship Services

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**Palm Sunday** – March 29 at 11:00 am at Litchfield UMC  
(Regular Sunday Service)

**Maundy Thursday** – April 2 at 5:45 pm at Quincy UMC  
(joint service between Quincy and Litchfield UMC's).  
The service begins with a potluck.

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

**Easter Egg Hunt**—Saturday, April 4, in the afternoon.

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

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

## Lay Servant Training on the Albion District

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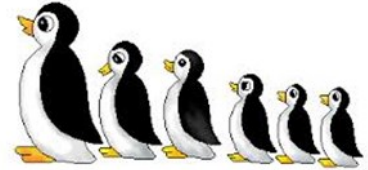
The Albion District will be offering two opportunities for Lay Servant Training this spring. The first sessions being offered will be a 2-Saturday Training at Union City UMC on March 7 and 14. There will be two classes offered: Basic Lay Servant Training and Advance Course: Leading Prayer. You need be able to attend both Saturdays in order to receive full Lay Servant Credit. The second offering will be a Lay Servant Training Weekend at Wesley Woods on April 17 and 18. Four classes will be offered during this training weekend: Basic, Spiritual Gifts, Worship Leading and Preach: From Your Heart to Theirs. Both brochures and registrations are available on the Albion District Website [www.albiondistrict.org](http://www.albiondistrict.org).

# March of Penguins

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Baby, it's cold outside! This year the Northeast states can check the 'YES' box for winter arrival! It's cold in other parts of the world, as well, including places such as Antarctica. But give the earth a bit of a tilt and from November to March, it is 'summer' at Port Lockroy on Goudier Island, coastal Antarctica. Summer there is still very cold compared to summer here. Even there nature has a way to show us the circle of life.

A recent program "NATURE", aired on PBS (Public Broadcast System) WKAR, East Lansing. It documented birds of that Island, visiting tourists, and the staff operating the facility/post. Penguins. Plenty of Penguins gather, pair up, mate, raise one or two chicks, nurture, grow and mature. What was most interesting from that filming? People did not interfere with the laws of nature. Penguins had their own boundaries with imaginary fence lines and defended those territories from other penguins of the same breed. You'd think they'd get along, especially in such a harsh environment—harsh to people anyway.



In one scene, a chick wandered into the wrong territory. The camera crew, staff of the post, and tourists did not interfere with the outcome that took place - death.

This thing we call nature is set in motion. Even if people do interrupt one scene, things (life) are set in motion on this earth. We have been given a set-in-motion cycle of choice. Does God interfere with us? He certainly can. Will He? When is it necessary? If so, how often? Who, if anyone or everyone? What's important here is remembering we have been given—choice. God has turned that over to us and He so wants us to choose Him. His project, people, has been the same—then, now and tomorrow—choose.

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.  
So do not be attracted to strange, new ideas."  
Hebrews 13:8-9*

As Lent continues to lead us to Resurrection Sunday—Easter—preparation is needed to understand the nature of Jesus's final days. Those final days of Jesus when boundaries and imaginary fences were crossed which resulted with the outcome that took place. Death.

Does God interfere? Will He? When? He certainly can. Resurrection Sunday—Easter—reminds us to choose and that choice is God. Keep that set-in-motion nature so...

*"People who are not Christians will respect the way you live..." I Thessalonians 4:12*

*As we choose God!*

*Ron Giacobassi*

# Outreach Team

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## 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.



<u>Qty.</u>		<u>Qty.</u>	
_____	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](mailto: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.

## Office Assistant Position Open

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Jonesville United Methodist Church.

The Office Assistant position is 12 hours per week. Preferably Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9 - 1:00 pm, however they could be flexible in creating a fixed schedule. Must know Microsoft Word, gmail, and be savvy with computers and office equipment. Primary responsibilities are the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. Must be organized and detail oriented. Some creativity a plus! Interested applicants can call the church at 849-9565 or Pastor Jennifer's cell at 462-8225.

## Pastor Away for Continuing Education

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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](http://www.festivalofhomiletics.com).



# Thank You

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Dear L.U.M.C. Members,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers during my recent hospital stay. I would also like to thank everyone involved in the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful shawl. I have used it a lot in this last month to help keep my hands toasty.

Marilyn Wade



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the nice Valentine's Day card. I love seeing everyone's signature. Thanks for the Subway gift card: it will be a nice change from dorm food.

Everything is going well. Classes aren't too bad. I'm trying to stay warm walking to class. Thanks again!

Hugs, Leah Giacobassi

## Liturgy and Refreshment Schedule

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### LITURGIST

March 1 - Cheryl Sykes

March 8: -Valery Roberts

March 15 - Brett Smith

March 22 - Tim Chilson

March 29—Tom Beckner



### COFFEE HOUR

March 1 - Carl & Cheryl Sykes

March 8 - Al & Nancy Gaige

March 15 - Mike and Carol Ireland

March 22 - Marcia Ferry and Lois Miller

March 29—Laura Cierpilowski and Sheila Gary



# Stop Violence Now!

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## *Facing Violence: Domestic, Guns, and Human Trafficking*



*13th Annual Keep Making Peace  
Saturday, April 11, 2015  
9:00 am to 3:30 pm*

*University United Methodist Church  
East Lansing, MI 48823*

*Register by April 3 at [msuwesley.org/kmp2015](http://msuwesley.org/kmp2015)  
\$15 per person or \$30 per carload of 3 or more persons*

## Blood Drive

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The next Blood Drive is March 11, Noon-5:45 p.m.

At Litchfield United Methodist Church

Help is much appreciated as we serve refreshments  
to those who give blood.

Cookies, drink, and sandwich spread.

Call the church office at 542-3366 if you would like to help  
with this important ministry in our community.

Or sign up at the "Faith In Action" bulletin board at church.

Thank you.

## Work Day—Workers Wanted!

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Saturday, March 28, 9:00 a.m.

The Trustees will have a WORK DAY at the church. There is much outside work that needs to be done and your help is needed. The more we have to help with this project the sooner it will be done. Mark your calendars today and plan on being a part of spiffing up the grounds. Thank you.





# United Methodist Women

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Our March 25, 2015, meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. Hostesses are Ella Hamrick and Carol Ireland. Our program is by Scott Ferry on his family trip to Bahrian-Dubai.

On September 20, 2015, during worship we will celebrate UMW Sunday with the message given by our own District Superintendent, Tamara Williams. After worship we will have a church-wide potluck dinner so you can meet and visit with Tamara. Carol Ireland, President

## Remember to pray for...

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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



Pray for Paul Webster, our missionary in Africa.  
Pray for our Cub Scouts and others Scouts around the world.  
Pray for those receiving cancer treatments.

## Easter Flowers

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The time has come once again to make plans for decorating our church for Easter Sunday. You may purchase a *SPRING FLOWER* for this purpose by filling out this form and placing it in the offering plate, or turning it in at the church office. Please make checks payable to LUMC for \$12.50. Orders will be taken through Sunday, March 22.

A complete list of names will appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, and you may choose a plant to take home after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ How many \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

# Purdy Match Helps Raise Money for L.E.O. Fund

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In 2014 the Purdy Family Foundation once again offered to match up to \$5,000 raised for the L.E.O. Fund. L.E.O. stands for Litchfield Emergency Outreach. This fund is administrated by the Litchfield United Methodist Church to help individuals and families in need. Again, we have met and exceeded this match. We raised a total of \$12,350.00, which includes the amount given by the Purdy Family Foundation. We would like to thank individuals, businesses, unions and other churches who helped Litchfield UMC meet this fundraising goal and for partnering with us in ministry. They are listed below:

- |                      |                      |                  |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| First Baptist Church | Litchfield Grain Co. | Rossman Builders |
| Gonzalez Group       | Litchfield Rotary    | Tenneco          |
| J. Smith Agency      | Michigan Rebuild     | UAW Local 373    |
| Jesco Industries     | Nex Solutions        | Warren Financial |



## Financial Synopsis

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### LITCHFIELD UMC FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS – JANUARY 2015

	Jan. 2015	Year-to-Date	Budget
Income Toward	\$ 9,638.79	\$ 9,638.79	\$ 114,000.00
Budget Expenses	\$ 8,831.09	\$ 8,831.09	\$ 113,753.00
Difference	\$ 807.70	\$ 807.70	\$ 247.00

**Needed Monthly to Meet Church Budget: \$ 9,500.00**

**Designated Giving: \$ 4,982.00**

**Ministry Shares Paid: \$ 950.00 (8.33%)**





# 2015

## L-Litchfield Q-Quincy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 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 Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 6:30 p.m. L Lenten Study	<b>3</b> 10 am L Bible Study	<b>4</b> 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm Q Lenten Study	<b>5</b> 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6:30 pm Q Game Night	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 1 pm L-Girl Scouts
<b>8</b> 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 6:30 p.m. L Lenten Study	<b>10</b> 10 am L Bible Study 6 pm L Trustees 7 pm L Outreach	<b>11</b> 6 am L Prayer 9:30 am Q Bible Study Noon L Blood Drive 7 pm Q Lenten Study	<b>12</b> 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 1 pm L-Girl Scouts
<b>15</b> 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 Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 6:30 p.m. L Lenten Study	<b>17</b> 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	<b>18</b> 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm Q Lenten Study	<b>19</b> 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> L –Rebekah’s Luncheon 1 pm L Girl Scouts
<b>22</b> 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	<b>23</b> Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 6:30 pm L Lenten Bible Study	<b>24</b> 10 am L Bible Study	<b>25</b> 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm Q Lenten Bible Study	<b>26</b> 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9 am L Work Day 10 am L Outreach Baking Day 1 pm L-Girl Scouts
<b>29</b> 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	<b>30</b> Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Boy Scouts 6:30 pm L Lenten Bible Study	<b>31</b>	. Please check the weekly bulletins for changes, updates, & locations.	<b>April 2</b> 5:45 Potluck and Maundy Thursday Service at Quincy UMC	<b>April 3</b> 7 pm L Community Good Friday Service	

### March Birthdays

1-Alivia Blonde  
 1-Dean Edwards  
 2-Barb Miller  
 5-David Sykes  
 5-Ken Wells  
 11-Clifton Wells  
 12-SueAnn Kaleida  
 12-Mike Ireland  
 13-David Houchen  
 14-Ron Crater  
 15-Damian Ridenour  
 21-Marilyn Wade  
 22-Jessica Sykes  
 30-Alexis Blonde

### Anniversaries

16-Ray & Mary Wendorf  
 17-Jim & Janis White  
 25-Tom & Marge Beckner  
 26-Mick & Lorie Dickinson





**LITCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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517-542-3366

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Website: [umclitchfield.org](http://umclitchfield.org)

Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/litchfieldumc](https://www.facebook.com/litchfieldumc)

Pastor: Julie Yoder Elmore

E-Mail: [jyelmore@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**MARCH NEWSLETTER 2015**

**Daylight Savings Time Begins on Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to Spring Forward!**

