



A Note From Pastor Julie

From sowing seeds of faith to making a greater commitment to strengthen hospitality, I continue to be amazed at all that God is doing at Litchfield United Methodist Church! In April alone we had several special worship services with greater attendance over the last year – Good Friday, Easter, Holy Humor Sunday (Sunday after Easter), and Blessing of the Farmers. Attendance was even up on the last Sunday of the month over last year. This is definitely an exciting time to be together in ministry! Offering coffee before and during worship has strengthened our hospitality, helping newer attendees and visitors to truly feel welcome and included in our faith community. In addition to an increase in average attendance, even more people are serving as ushers, assistant head usher, greeters, coffee makers, nursery workers, and junior church teachers. Our first annual Race Car Car Show was an incredible success with 13 cars exhibited and at least 100 people from the community in attendance and even more by radio. Several people in our church volunteered their time to make this event a real success. Truly amazing!

As we journey together in the midst of this excitement, I want to go back to my column from March to remind us that as we develop into something new, we must be hospitable to one another and open to new ways of being in ministry and in community together. As we looked at 1 John 3:16-24 on April 26, we were challenged as individuals and as a community to lay down our lives for one another and others, just as Christ did for us. Old ways of doing ministry are going to be evaluated and tweaked, transformed or even dropped where needed. Throughout this journey, we are going to experience times of joy and ease, while other times will be frustrating and even painful.

Through the ups and downs of faithfulness and developing into something new, we must remember that we are the church. Above all, as people of the church we must love. When our first impulse is to lash out at someone who challenges a tradition we hold dear, we must step back, say a breath prayer and ask ourselves how what we are about to say and how we are about to say it is furthering the Kingdom of God. Hard things can be expressed in loving ways. It is a challenge, but it can be done.

At Litchfield United Methodist Church we are truly a community of faith that continues to increase in vibrancy. I invite you to continue to join me in prayer as we seek God's guidance on our journey to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Blessings,

Pastor Julie Elmore

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 is 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.

If you are a walker, the envelope with the money collected must be turned in the day of the walk.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day – Sunday, May 10, 11 a.m. Worship. Bring your children or mother to church. Let's see how many generations of families we can have together on this special day. Our children will participate. During Fellowship Time following Worship, all women of the church will be recognized.



HARCC SINGSPIRATION - Sunday, May 24, 7 p.m.



We will host the monthly singspiration for people who attend Hillsdale-area churches. If you like to sing hymns and gospel songs, this event is for you! If you would like to learn hymns and gospel songs, this event is for you! Brownies and cookies will be served following. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you can help provide the goodies. Thank you.

Graduate Recognition – Sunday, May 31, 11 a.m. Worship.

Join us as we honor this year's high school and college graduates:

Emily Roberts from Jonesville High School

Jessica Roberts from Litchfield High School

Scottie Steele from Central Michigan University

Help us to recognize the accomplishments of these fine young people.



RUN, WALK, ROLL

A cool morning in early spring. People begin gathering at the designated location. This is an event. A timed event. A place where people come to support a group with a purpose. There is an expected donation, but this day a set dollar amount qualifies people to participate. More people begin to arrive. There's a crispness to the air. Music to "warm" those airwaves. There's an excitement of chatter as the crowd grows to 280 plus!

This once-a-year event has really taken weeks and weeks of planning and that's just for the organizers. The participants have also been preparing well in advance for this day.

"Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important..."
1 Timothy 4:8

This 5K (3.1 miles) run, walk, and roll course is on the scenic Michigan State University (MSU) campus. The donations collected will be used to benefit students with disabilities so they, too, can gain an education at the collegiate level.

The Tower Guard (T.G.) members at MSU use part of the funds to translate text books into forms usable for visually, hearing, and physically impaired students. T.G. students assist other special needs students by reading or writing as they continue their learning.

A race? A race against the clock for most participants. The run, you know. The walk, you know (almost). The roll?

People in special designed wheelchairs for racing. Others being pushed in three-wheeled 'racing' strollers.



The whistle blows! Runners up front, walkers and rollers go. Sparty is there, too, cheering everyone!

The real race comes about a mile into the course. Someone already started before all the others. A young man makes his way along the Red Cedar River. He's left his wheels behind and is using a walker. (The walk).

A steady pace for him as participants go around and continue the course.

The 5K is done for nearly everyone. Personal best times for some, while goals met for first ever 5 K-ers. People cool down with energy bars and plenty of water provided. The timer is still going though. The music still playing. Some Tower Guard members are still out there in weather that's 40 degrees, overcast and trying to sprinkle rain on their event!

The young man and a supporter make their way across the finish line. Victory achieved!! Peter completed those 3.1 miles as students applauded and cheered.



For someone who has used the resources provided by Tower Guard, Peter was giving back. He showed how strength, courage, determination and gratefulness add up. This 5K had 280 plus people, but there was one young man, Peter, who set the pace on how one wins the race!

His willingness to give back with the abilities he has is truly inspirational. Whatever your ability, from walking for a cause to helping students read, the race is won when you provide yourself to others. What's your ability? How best can you use it? What's holding you back?

"Are you called to help others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 4:11

Ready, Set, Go—Ron Giacobassi

Outreach Team

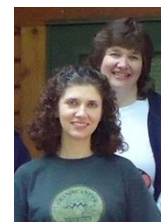
- ◆ **Meijer Simply Give** program is here! We've been chosen again to receive the money donated for our Food Pantry. It runs from March 29-May 11. \$10 Meijer cards are available in the Narthex at the church. You may give your donation to Kathy Blonde or turn it in at the church office and Kathy will see that it gets to Meijer's. This can also be done at the store when you are there through May 11. Thank you so much for your support.



- ◆ **June Garage Sale Weekend:** June 4, 5, and 6, 8:00 a.m. 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.



<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
_____	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.

Children's Time



Liturgy and Refreshment Schedule

LITURGIST

May 3- Brett Smith
May 10 - Tim Chilson
May 17 - Tom Beckner
May 24 - Zach Hiser
May 31 - Frank Hiser

COFFEE HOUR

May 3 - Mike & Carol Ireland
May 10 - "Mother's Day"
May 17 - Carl & Cheryl Sykes
May 24- Marcia Ferry and Lois Miller
May 31 - Laura Cierpilowski and Sheila Gary





Spring Luncheon

Quincy United Methodist Church
32 West Chicago Street
Quincy, MI 49082
Thursday, May 21 at noon

Guest Speaker will be Rev. Tamara Williams,
District Superintendent for the Albion District.
Rev. Jeremy Williams will provide entertainment.

Please RSVP by May 15
517-639-5035
umcquincy@gmail.com

United Methodist Women



The May meeting will be on May 27, in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. Our program will be by Pat Smith and presented by Gary Smith, Bill Nobles, and Gene Vagg about Litchfield Initiative. Hostesses are Betty Peiffer and Nancy Gaige.

In June, we will have our UMW Lunch Out. Hostesses are Clara Dawson and Annie Wolfe. Plan on joining us that day or any of our meetings. You will have more details at a later date. Have a wonderful Spring and Summer!

Carol Ireland, President

Peace with Justice Sunday - *Sunday, May 31, 2015*

Equipping the United Methodist Church to Do Justice in Jesus' Name

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- ◆ Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- ◆ United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issues Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad. These initiatives, and hundreds of other ones, are possible because you give.



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

Family and Friends:)

Garland Chapman	Gene Campbell	Mick Dickinson	Shelby Gonser
Glenn Hackworth	Ruth Hamilton	Rolland Hankey	Amy Haroff
Jason Hill	Phyllis Hoag	Patty Johnson	Dick Kaleida
Debbie Kurtz	Bambi Lambright	Tom Masarik	Anne Mate
Pat McMillen	Taylor Nelson	Bob Oshsenrider	Betty Peiffer
Hazel Rice	Isabelle Russell	Cheri Smith	Pat Smith
Damian Ridenour	Dora Villarreal	Jeff Warren	Monique Yoder
Mindy Zigler	Kate Banks	David Bollen	Bonnie Adams

Pray for Paul Webster, our missionary in Africa.
Pray for Good Stuff Club students and volunteers.
Pray for all coping with chronic illness.

Fundraiser to Benefit V. B. S.



We would like many of our church family to participate in a project to raise support for Vacation Bible School, but this is entirely up to each individual to participate. How this would work is each person who signs up will make something for the next name on the list, such as baked goods, a dish for their dinner, etc. When you receive a gift, you would then mark off your name and make a donation for the item you received, then you make something and deliver to next name. This would need to move on within 1-3 days to have this project done by July 31, 2015. There will be a clipboard on the table in the Narthex. Please sign up as soon as possible. If you have questions, please contact Carol Ireland.



Litchfield United Methodist Church
Vacation Bible School
Sunday August 2—Thursday, August 6, 2015
Evenings

WEST MICHIGAN UNITED METHODIST CAMPING



Our church conference has several different camping locations to choose from for people of all ages! They are: Albright Camp, near Reed City; Crystal Springs Camp, near Dowagiac; Lake Louise Camp, near Boyne Falls; Lake Michigan Camp, near Pentwater; Lakeview Camp, near Mt. Pleasant; Wesley Woods Camp, near Dowling; as well as off-site camps such as the Adirondack Adventure Camps. You can learn more about all of these opportunities by going to www.westmichiganconference.org.

This website can give you all the information you need to select and register for the camping experience that suits you best! If you would like to hear some personal stories of camp experiences, please feel free to chat with Cheryl Sykes, Jessica Sykes, Leslie Dickinson, or Scott Ferry. Church camp gives people of all ages the opportunity to immerse themselves in God's love in a fun, accepting, and natural setting.

There is no time to waste if you are interested in registering for camp! If you would like assistance with the registration process, Cheryl Sykes or Carolyn Nafziger (our church secretary) can help you. Payment in full is due by May 22, 2015. However, registrations ARE still accepted up to one week prior to your selected camp, provided the space is still available. Our church family also offers financial assistance with the cost of camp, and will pay half of each camper's registration fee. If you have further questions, please see Cheryl Sykes.

Keep in mind: There will be a special **"Fifth Sunday Offering"** taken on May 31 for camp scholarships, which gives you opportunity to help those who want to go to camp.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

June 4-7, 2015 at Calvin College

Online registration is open through May 15. After May 15, you will be able to register when you arrive on campus, but a late fee of \$25 will be added to ALL registrations, and Special Meals will be no longer be available. More information at westmichiganconference.org

Photos of Race Car Show



“Happy 90th Birthday”



Ruth Eileen Hamilton

Please join us in wishing Ruth a “Happy 90th Birthday”
Saturday, June 6, 2015, with an Open House from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
at the Litchfield United Methodist Church
160 Marshall Street (M99), Litchfield, MI 49252

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. Her phone is 517-542-3619.

We hope to see you,
Ken & Janice, & Sharon
(517-542-3128 or cell 517-418-0011)



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Pastor Away



Continuing Education, Annual Conference, and Clergy Family Camp coming up...

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.

In June, she will be away for West Michigan Annual Conference from Thursday, June 4, through Sunday, June 7. For more information, go to <http://westmichiganconference.org/pages/detail/3646>.

From June 19-21, Pastor Julie is attending Clergy & Family Camp with Pastor David and Oliver at Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater. This is not only a time for refreshment with other pastors and their families in the great outdoors, but also a time of learning.

Stay tuned for pastoral coverage information in the weekly bulletins. Pastor Mike Murray is available if you should need pastoral care during all three of these events. Cell # (517) 425-4773.



2015

L-Litchfield Q-Quincy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Please check the weekly bulletins for changes, updates, & locations.			1	2 1 pm L-Girl Scouts
3 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 2 pm CROP Walk	4 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Cub Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	5 10 am L Bible Study 6 pm L Trustees 7 pm L Outreach	6 6 am L Prayer 9:30 am Q Bible Study 2:15 pm L Good Stuff Club 6 pm Q Men's Night	7 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6:30 Q Game Night	8 5 pm L –Wedding	9 1 pm L Girl Scouts
10 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship MOTHER'S DAY	11 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Cub Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	12 10 am L Bible Study	13 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 12 pm L Blood Drive 7 pm L Nurture Team	14 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	15	16 1 pm L Girl Scouts
17 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	18 Noon L Rotary 3 pm L Knit & Craft 5:30 pm L Cub Scouts 7 pm L Bible Study	19 10 am L Bible Study 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	20 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 6 pm L Finance Team 7 pm Ad Council	21 12 pm Q Ladies Luncheon 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	22	23 1 pm L Girl Scouts
24/31 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship (24) HARCC Sing at Litchfield UMC (31) L Graduate Sunday (31) -1 pm L Youth	25 	26 10 am L Bible Study	27 6 am L Prayer Time 9:30 am Q Bible Study 1 PM L U. M. Women	28 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6:30 pm Q Game Night	29	30 1 pm L Girl Scouts

May Birthdays

1-Scott Barrington
2-Al Gaige
4-Lillie Smith
6-Valery Roberts
13-Ruth Pinter
15-Gene Southworth
16-Patrick Strasser
18-Jean Sykes

18-Judy Bills
19-Ron Giacobassi
20-Nancy Moore
23-Christopher Sykes
27-Karen Wells
28-Jack Smith

Anniversaries

1-Ken & Janice Hamilton
6-Jim & Linda Kay Wildt
16-Ken & Karen Wells
17-Fred & Lorna McMillen
29-Art & Millie Clark





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](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.

MAY 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.