

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Isaiah 40:1

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Isaiah 40:4-5

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but they who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:29-31

Do you have a Small Group?

Vital small groups fueled a movement

(This article is from the United Methodist Church webpage)

This movement began with a few young college men who started the first small group in Methodism. Commonly known as the Holy Club, the concept of personal holiness and social holiness caught fire. The holiness of life was attained through these small groups that were called class meetings. Class meetings were small groups of people gathering in homes for prayer, study and accountability for the Christian life. Later, after Methodism spread from England to the United States, the movement of small groups and spreading scriptural holiness would emerge into congregations and eventually a denomination. Prior to that, the movement was a renewal community made up of small groups. As the movement started congregations and a denomination, it continued its same mission, help people live the Christian life through the means of grace and spread scriptural holiness. It employed the same core ministries of training laity to lead small groups, engaging in ministries with the poor (social holiness), and sending out exhorters (personal holiness through sending teachers and preachers to share the Gospel.)

Currently we have small groups which meet periodically:

1. Wayne and Chris Bell's group on Mondays at 7 p.m.
2. Little Women who meet on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at various locations.
3. Promise Keepers meets Wednesday mornings at 6:30 a.m. at the church,.
4. John and Scharla Tapson's group meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at their home.
5. CLC (Children's Life Club) meets Wednesdays at 6:00 for supper and 6:30 for lessons and activities
6. United Methodist Women meet monthly on the first Tuesday of each month from April through December in the Fellowship Hall.
7. A Bible Study meets Friday mornings at 10 a.m. at Scharla Tapson's beginning February 17th.
8. A Young Adult groups at various times in the church. See Amanda Diel for details.

Ask at the office for details about groups. Do you have an idea for a small group? See Pastor Dave.

Job Assignments for the New Year



Sunday, February 5, 2017

Greeters First: Ralph & Cheryl Hunt

2nd: Randy & Judy Hostetler

Ushers: 1st: Tom Fritz

2nd: Joe and Nathan Abbot and Dan Edwards

Nursery: Helen and Logan Abbott

Children s Church: Byronna & Nicole Brydon

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Greeters First: Scott & Norma Bohms

2nd: Mike & Susan Hutchens

Ushers: 1st: Ralph Hunt

2nd: Brock Welshans, Tom & Tommy Skakle

Nursery: Sarah Kady and Emily Bell

Children s Church: Melissa Findlay & Emily Schaub

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Greeters First: Sue Brydon

2nd: Shane & Sarah Kady

Ushers: 1st: Scott Bohms

2nd: Jason Bell and Mike Hutchens

Nursery: Amy King and Kyle Abbott

Children s Church: Brock & Krissa Welshans

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Greeters First: Jack & Dorothy Kelly

2nd: Lorraine and Mary Lou Kraft

Ushers: 1st: Lon Dunsford

2nd: Shane Kady, Ben King and Gerald Foote

Nursery: Kristie Seaman and Elizabeth Skakle

Children s Church: Cheryl Lewis and Grace Decker

If you cannot serve at the time assigned, please make arrangements for a sub or call the office by Wednesday before the Sunday assigned.

Heaven Sent to Host Food Pantry Distribution on February 16th

Volunteers from our church as well as other churches will meet at the Heaven Sent Community Ministries building on Main Street on Thursday February 16, 2017 for the regular distribution. If you would like to help with the distribution, show up at Heaven Sent at 4:30 that day.

Meanwhile the Second Chance Clothing Shoppe continues to operate from their building from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 10-2 on Saturday.

Men, Women, boys and girls: Add to your winter wardrobe for the right price. Check out the selection; remember it changes all the time! Drop-offs can now be made at the back door.

NOTE: When the temperature drops to 10 degrees or lower, call the store (989-635-0077) to be sure it is open.

Heaven Sent sponsors another food distribution on the last Saturday of the month at the VFW Hall Parking Lot in Marlette. Your volunteer help would be most appreciated. Call Gina at 989-635- 0077 for details.

Announcements

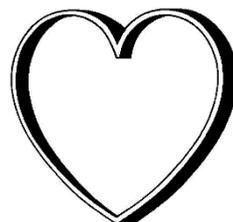
*****The *Upper Room* for January/February is on the window sill in the Sanctuary or on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself and take a copy for family or friends. The *Upper Room* is available in large print also at the same locations.

*****Your church envelopes for giving for 2017 are on table in the Fellowship Hall; please pick yours up.

The Church family is sending a Valentine to...

1. Cinda Nelson for doing such a great job of keeping our church clean and neat!
2. Gerry Smith who keeps our books, pays our bills as well as coordinating the projects of Helping Hands.
3. Kim Schell for helping in the office and keeping the office clean.
4. Becky Decker for subbing for John Tapson when he is vacationing.
5. Matt Chappel for teaching the youth in Sunday School.
6. Krissa Welshans, Katie Lewis, Sarah Kady and Jenn Mason for playing the guitar and singing each Sunday.
7. Sherryl Potter for playing the piano each Sunday.
8. Tom and Olivia Fritz who helped Pastor Dave outfit his office with furniture and shelving.
9. Cheryl Lewis for working with our little ones and teaching children's church.
10. Pat Mulder for inspiring the women's newsletter and the women's retreats.
11. Kendra Jickling and the Tri County Bank for providing the lovely poinsettias at Christmas.
12. Paul and Florence Dunsford for providing the elements for Holy Communion each month.
13. Dick Schell for making and serving breakfast for UMM when they meet.
14. Jackie Reid who helps keep track of those in attendance at the first service.
15. Scott Bohms who heads the Trustees and keeps our buildings in shape and up to date.
16. Randy Hostetler who has spent hours and hours updating our electrical and sound systems by eliminating miles of excess, extraneous wiring.
17. Pastor Dave for being Pastor Dave, a special thank you
18. Lyndsey Burton for teaching our little ones at Sunday School.
19. M. L. Kraft and Linda Warner for cooking and preparing for the Free Community Lunches.
20. Susan Hutchens who plans for and creates lesson plans for our Children's Church program.
21. Judy Hostetler who plans for and helps serve funeral lunches for our church.
22. Chris Bell who provided snacks for the Fellowship Time on Sundays.
23. Jerrod Naracon and Jason Bell who work the sound booth for worship services.
24. Emily Bell for working the Power Point projecting the lyrics and sermon notes.
25. Don Potter and Orpha Thompson, two of our church's prayer warriors.
26. A. J. Howard who provides beautiful organ music each Sunday at first service.
27. Patrecia Ross who plays the piano each Sunday morning at first service when she is in Marlette.
28. For Elizabeth Snow and Betty Kiteley who send greeting cards for the UMW.
29. All of our ushers at both services.
30. All of our Nursey workers.
31. All of our greeters at each service.
32. All of our Children's Church workers.
33. All of our CLC workers.
34. All of our Sunday School teachers.
35. All the volunteers who help at the Free Community Lunches as well as those who work at the Food Pantry distributions.
36. All those who attend our worship services and support the church in other ways.

WE LOVE YOU GUYS!



It takes the whole church family to keep the church viable. God bless your efforts!

HIGHLIGHTS



Administrative Board Meeting

January 16, 2017

In Attendance: Pastor Dave Mulder, Gerry Smith, Sarah Kady, Linda Warner and John Tapson.

Gerry Smith, our treasurer, had several questions about procedure:

1. Could we eliminate any names of those approved to purchase at Ben's?
 - a. Removed Dan and Celina Bowman, Carla Miller, Nancy Glass, Kim Schell and Larry Aultman.
2. Can we move the remainder of funds collected for work on the Upper Room to the Trustees who continue to make improvements to the room. Approved.
3. Do we continue to use the offerings from the Christmas envelopes and the offering from the Christmas Eve services to Caring Heart Health Clinic? Approved for this year and will reconsider options for future years. Motion by Linda Warner, second by Sarah Kady; motion carried.
4. Consider a shortfall of nearly \$18,000, should we send missionaries Atkins and Potters \$700 each as budgeted? Not at this time; consider a special offering for missionaries.
5. Is it ok to print only the current monthly reports and have the rest on

file for review. This idea was approved.

6. Is it ok to set up the Camp Scholarship Fund so that funds left over go to the next year in the same fund. Approved.
7. In 2016 we paid approximately 75% of the apportionments; 100% of district apportionments. Board agreed to continue policy of paying 50% of apportionments until financial situation changes.

Linda Warner reported that the Free Community Lunch had served 167 in November and 165 in December. Attendance at the Thanksgiving Dinner was 210 and Christmas Dinner was 220. She reported that all is going well. She is working with the Salvation Army to help supply emergency food for those in need. She is having a fund raiser called Crafters Palooza on February 18th in our Fellowship Hall. Check with Linda for details. Financially, all is going well.

Gerry Smith reported that Helping Hands had not been able to meet for a special workday earlier this month because of the weather and her health. That event will be rescheduled in the spring. Helping Hands will continue to work on projects each Tuesday from 9:30-noon in the fellowship Hall. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Pastor Dave pointed out calendar events:

1. Mike Hutchens will preach a three-part lesson to the congregation on February 12, 19 and 26th.
2. March 1st is Ash Wednesday.

THANKS!

A special thanks to Dick and Kim Schell for providing treats for Fellowship Time after each service for the month of January. The donuts were delicious! If you would be willing to assume the responsibility for a month, let Scharla Tapson know.



Prayers of Thanksgiving

For Grace Heiden, the granddaughter of Butch and Marlene Kolomak, who had a severe reaction to peanuts; thanks that she is ok.

For the improved heating system in the Upper Room; our Trustees take good care of us.

Prayers of Condolence

For Lorraine and Mary Lou Kraft; Lorraine's sister Fern passed away at 95; she will be missed.

For the family of Karen Allan's sister-in-law from Tennessee who passed away this week.

For the family of Janelle Eddy, the 27-year-old granddaughter of Jan Wilson; Janelle fell on the ice and died as a result of the fall.

Prayers for Healing & Protection

For Florence Dunsford who continues to deal with health issues.

For Pat Heintz who is recovering from cataract surgery.

For Jennifer Rettell, a friend of Tom & Olivia, who has cerebral palsy and whose motor skills are failing.

For Dennis Lents, a friend of Tom & Olivia Fritz, who was to have had surgery for cancer.

For Don Cameron who lost a battle with the Ice Man when Don put his car in the ditch and fell different times when he exited the vehicle. He is suffering back pain and pain in the rib area.

For Aaron Lefler; his father passed away earlier in the month; pray for guidance in his life for decisions to be made without parents. He's only 18.

For Kandy McQuarrie, Kristy Naracon's mother, who fell and broke her wrist; she was to have had surgery at the Lapeer Hospital

For Rita and Stanley Knopf; Rita is now on hospice care and not doing well.

For Bonnie Bechtel, Bernie Boyne's sister, who is struggling with cancer.

For Jill Thomas who continues to deal with health challenges.

For Viviene Huntoon who is recovering from a broken hip.

For Don Phillips who is now living at the Sanilac Medical Care Facility in Sandusky.

For Marian Stieler for on-going health and good spirits.

For Ken Linton who continues to have health problems. Hospice is providing home health services.

For Hortensia Prince, Cindy Elias' mother, who has been released from the hospital and is out of grave danger. She is now recovering in a nursing home. Pray for continued recovery.

For Carol Sarles, Rodney Friday's aunt who is fighting cancer.

For Mike Southall, Jan Wilson's brother who continues to battle cancer and recently broke his leg.

For Ryan Rich who is health concerns.

For Lori Nicol who continues to deal with health issues.

For John Mulder, Pastor Dave's brother, who continues to wait for a double lung transplant.

For Patty Tatgenthorst who continues to deal with health concerns.

For Jane Grant who continues to reside in Sandusky at the Medical Care Facility.

Crafters Palooza

Free Lunch and Smart Snacks Fundraising Event

Saturday, February 18, 2017 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

\$25 for ALL DAY Saturday

Fee Includes: **8' Table, Meals, Snacks, Beverages, Prizes and MORE!**

Marlette First United Methodist Church
3155 Main Street
Marlette, MI 48453

All Crafters Welcome!

Room for scrapbooking, quilting, sewing, knitting, etc. Plenty of food and fellowship available

Please make checks payable to:
Marlette UMC

Mail Registration to
Linda Warner
2739 Applegate Road
Marlette, MI 48453



Please complete registration form and mail with fee

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Individual(s) you wish to be seated with:

Announcements

*****If you are baking cookies for the family, why not bake a couple dozen for the church fellowship time next Sunday? Let Linda Warner know if this works for you!

*****The Mid-Week meal will be served on Wednesday this week at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to dine with us. CLC (Christian Life Club) will meet at 6:30 p.m. Let your kids know and we'll see you and them there!

*****Leonardo Silva, the exchange student from Brazil who stayed with Don and Sherryl Potter, has contacted them and asked them to be on the look-out for a Christian family who would consider hosting his brother, Eduardo for the 2017-18 school year. Eduardo is a talented soccer player. If you are interested or know of someone, please contact Don or Sherryl.

*****You're invited to celebration of 110th anniversary of the United Methodist Retirement Communities called *Living Well by Faith*. It will be held at the Chelsea Retirement Community in Chelsea, MI on Tuesday, February 7th from 6 until 8 p.m. Please RSVP by February 1st to 734-4331000 ext. 7399 or agranner@umrc.com.

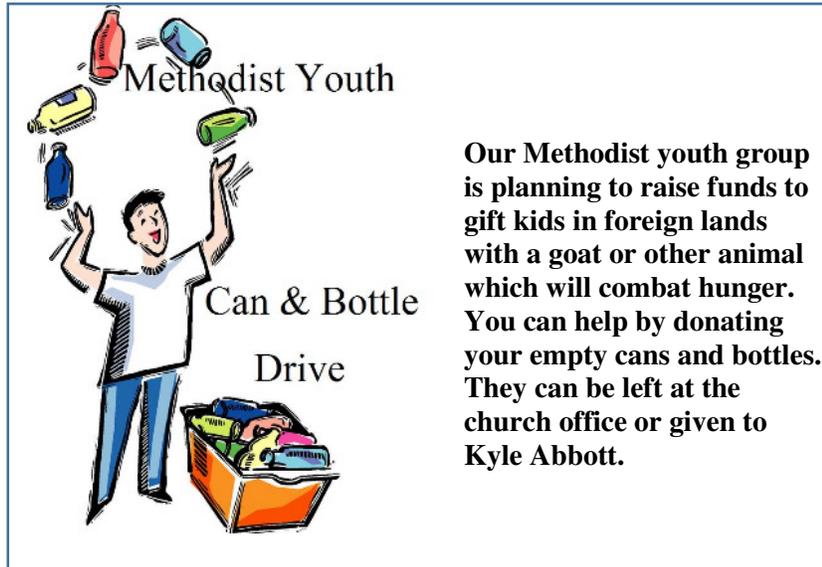
Reception begins at 6 and the service begins at 7. (See brochure on bulletin board in Kilgour Street west entrance.)

*****Check the bulletin board for Christmas greetings from Pastor Ted Halsted, our pastor from 1970-75. He celebrates his 90th birthday in May. Check his note; he was arrested at a peaceful demonstration in Washington, DC in April!

*****Every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. Pastor Dave is hosting a prayer service for those of you who need to set aside a time to pray and to be in the company of people with similar needs. For details see Pastor Dave.

What is a True Man/Woman of God?

Plan to be in church on three successive Sundays in February, the 12th, the 19th and the 26th when lay speaker Mike Hutchens will address that very issue.



Promise Keepers Meet Wednesday Mornings at 6:30 a.m. at our church

Promise Keepers is a Christ-centered organization dedicated to instilling a passion in men to hear, obey and daily meditate in the Word of God. We have impacted and transformed the lives of over 7 million men. We introduce men and young adults to Jesus Christ as their Savior, and challenge them to be men of the Word, godly husbands and fathers, live a life of purity, and support their pastors. We are awakening the church to its Biblical responsibility to stand with God's Chosen people and to break down barriers between race and denominations.

The 7 promises they pledge to keep are:

1. A Promise Keeper is committed to honoring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 12:1-2)
2. A Promise Keeper is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises. (Ecclesiastes 4:12)
3. A Promise Keeper is committed to practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity. (Hebrews 4:15-16)

4. A Promise Keeper is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection and biblical values. (Ephesians 5:25; 6:4)
5. A Promise Keeper is committed to supporting the mission of his church by honoring and praying for his pastor, and by actively giving his time and resources. (1 Timothy 5:17)
6. A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity. (John 17:20-21)
7. A Promise Keeper is committed to influencing his world, being obedient to the Great Commandment (Mark 12:30-31) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

Promise Keepers have met since 1990 in Marlette. Ask Pastor Dave for details about joining this special group. Good fellowship and study is followed often by breakfast out!

February 2017						
◀ January 2017						March 2017 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers 6 p.m. Mid-Week Meal in FH 6:30 p.m. CLC in FH	2 GROUND HOG DAY 7 p.m. AA in Basement	3	4
5 9 a.m. Traditional Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship	6 7 p.m. SG @Wayne & Chris Bells' 7 p.m. Trustees in FH	7 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands in FH NO UMW IN FEBRUARY 7 p.m. Little Women 7 p.m. Prayer Service in Sanctuary	8 6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers 6 p.m. Mid-Week Meal in FH 6:30 p.m. CLC in FH	9 7 p.m. AA in Basement 7 p.m. SG @ Tapson's	10	11
12 9 a.m. Traditional Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship	13 7 p.m. SG @Wayne & Chris Bells'	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands in FH 7 p.m. Little Women 7 p.m. Prayer Service in Sanctuary	15 6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers 6 p.m. Mid-Week Meal in FH 6:30 p.m. CLC in FH	16 5-6 p.m. Food Pantry Distribution @ HS 7 p.m. AA in Basement 7 p.m. SG @ Tapson's	17 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study @ Scharla's 6-8 p.m. Cub Scouts in FH	18 9 a.m.-9 p.m. CRAFTERS PALOOZA
19 9 a.m. Traditional Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY 7 p.m. SG @Wayne & Chris Bells' 7 p.m. Memorial Committee in FH	21 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands in FH 7 p.m. Little Women 7 p.m. Prayer Service in Sanctuary	22 6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers 6 p.m. Mid-Week Meal in FH 6:30 p.m. CLC in FH	23 7 p.m. AA in Basement 7 p.m. SG @ Tapson's	24 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study @ Scharla's	25 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free Community Lunch in FH
26 9 a.m. Traditional Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship	27 7 p.m. SG @Wayne & Chris Bells'	28 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands in FH 7 p.m. Little Women 7 p.m. Prayer Service in Sanctuary	Notes:CLC=Christian Life Club, SG= Small Group, FH=Fellowship Hall, HS=Heaven Sent, UMW=United Methodist Women, AA=Alcoholics Anonymous			