

Breckenridge United Methodist Church



May 2020 Newsletter

It has been more than 6 weeks since we last gathered together in worship and I hope that this newsletter finds you safe and well. Even though, we haven't been able to worship at our church building, Pastor Monique has been providing a worship experience on-line. In case you weren't aware of that option, you can go to our Facebook page and access the message there or go to www.breckenridgeumc.org and access her sermon from that platform. This newsletter was scheduled to go out in April, but the Covid-19 pandemic precautions knocked a lot of things off schedule, so here is the May portion of the newsletter because there certainly have been some big changes since we last met!



SPRC Committee – Lesha Colthorp, Chairperson

The SPRC would like announce that Pastor Monique French has been called to serve at the Washington Heights United Methodist Church in Battle Creek, effective July 1st, 2020. The Breckenridge United Methodist Congregation wants to thank Monique for the ministry and leadership she provided during her time with us and wish her well on her new appointment.

Monique's new appointment created a new opportunity for our future. I am pleased to announce we will be yoking with St. Louis United Methodist Church to create a full-time appointment. Pastor Billie Lou Gillespie has been appointed a full time 2-point charge to serve both at Breckenridge and St. Louis sharing her time equally. Pastor Gillespie and her husband Roger Brown will be relocating to St. Louis. Billie Lou has (4) grown children and (6) grandchildren. Roger and Billie Lou married in 2001 and have enjoyed their involvement in several international mission trips. Billie Lou is an MSU graduate with a major in Architectural Design, Graphic Arts and Interior Design. Her hobbies include cooking, sewing, camping and gardening. Roger and Billie Lou will be joining us July 1st, 2020.

Our worship time will be moved to 9:30 am when Pastor Billie Lou assumes her new duties. She will be worshipping with the St. Louis UMC at 11:00 am. The SPRC Committee met with Pastor Billie Lou on April 28th via Zoom and were very favorably impressed. We will miss Pastor Monique and pray that she is able to make as big an impact on the Battle Creek congregation as she made on us at Breckenridge.



A Message from Pastor Monique

Facing the impossible place.

Challenges are a part of everyday life. At the time of the challenge, things seem impossible. Yet, with each challenge, God can use for His glory. Think about it, without the impossible challenges, life becomes somewhat meaningless, there would be nothing to push us. The impossible challenges in life make us stronger in Christ and reveal to us where we are in our faith.

Impossible challenges come in many forms. So, it is important to remember that, whatever the problem, there is almost always a solution. God does a deep work within us when we face the impossible with persevering faith. The Apostle Paul learned to delight in the impossible place. He realized that it was there that he experienced the true power of God. When facing the impossible place, we too can experience God's power and rest in Him. We are divinely sustained by a power greater than ourselves.

When we lose our own control then we experience the power of Christ's control. "Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" - (2 Corinthians 12:10). Being in an impossible place can make us weak but remember when we are weak, He is strong. We become broken vessels, empty and ready for Christ to use. We cease from our own works - We give place to God's ways and His work. We become an instrument of noble purposes. "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work." (2 Timothy 2:20-21).

When we rest in faith - God teaches us to enter His rest. We must remember that life is not always comfortable, that sometimes we find ourselves in an impossible place. There are situations in life that call for the power of God. We are in an impossible place. We can't do it or see it happen in our own strength. There is the need to pray for something that is absolutely impossible in the natural. Don't give up. God loves the impossible place. Keep on praying for in due season He will show Himself strong on our behalf. He loves to answer impossible prayers of faith. Remember, "With God all things are possible." "And Jesus, replying, said to them, 'Have faith in God constantly. Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, be lifted up and thrown into the sea and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him'" - (Mark 11:22-23, Amplified).

May God bless you and keep you.

Pastor Monique French



Scholarship– Diane Colbry, Chairperson

Although the graduation season excitement has been dampened this year due to the stay at home orders and the cancellation of the last weeks of school and graduation ceremonies, life will go on and graduates will need to prepare for college or the continuation of a college career in the fall. With this in mind, the BUMC Scholarship Committee would like to announce that we will be awarding scholarships to church affiliated students again this year. These scholarships are made possible through a generous gift from Richard and Doris Baldwin. The application can be found on-line at www.breckenridgeumc.org or on a link on our Facebook page. Deadline for the applications has been moved to June 30th. Applications can be mailed to the church office at P.O. Box 248, Breckenridge, MI 48615.



Education Committee – Karen Stoneman

The education team has been trying to stay connected with the children through this pandemic and we hope we are making a little difference. The teachers have been making videos to post to the website, finding YouTube videos to share and encouraging the children to do crafts. We have been hosting a weekly Zoom session to stay connected to the children. There has been a good participation in most of the sessions. The children like to talk to each other and update the teachers on what they have been doing. Materials for a special craft will be distributed prior to Mother's Day, so the children can make it for a gift for their mother or grandmother. Please go to the church website at www.breckenridgeumc.org to view the lessons and videos. After we return to church, when it is safe to do so, we will make sure to follow recommended practices for the safety of our teachers and students. Children's church might look a little different and we will probably be utilizing a different space in the church to ensure we can maintain the 6-foot rule. However, most importantly we want to make sure the parents, children and teachers all feel comfortable and safe. We certainly do not want to spread the virus to our church family or their extended families. So, when the time is right to resume with children's church, please be prepared to have some new rules to follow.

Please feel free to contact Karen Stoneman at 989-928-1508 with any questions or concerns.

Stay healthy and safe. God Bless.



When will our church bloom again??????????????????

The Church Council will be meeting on May 12th via the computer program, ZOOM. A major topic of discussion will be, how do we return to the physical church when the time is deemed appropriate. Procedures will probably be different for safety's sake. We may not be passing the plate in the same way, we may be greeting one another differently, we may even be wearing face coverings to worship. Whenever that day occurs, please be assured that the church leadership, with the advice from the Bishop will be taking every precaution to insure a safe and enjoyable worship service.

In the meantime, please continue to stay close to Christ by worshipping on-line with Pastor Monique at www.breckenridgeumc.org and the church's Facebook page. Please continue to support our church financially by sending offerings to P.O. Box 248, Breckenridge, MI 48615 or giving on-line at our website.

The offerings for the month of April were great! Our giving actually exceeded our expenses, which is fantastic! Please continue to remember your church during this time of pandemic and we pray that this will soon come to an end so we can again meet as the body of Christ in our sanctuary.

There will be no schedule of coming events in this newsletter due to the uncertainty that we face. However, we do hope to have an opportunity to have a farewell reception for Pastor Monique and then a welcoming reception for our new pastor, Billie Lou Gillespie when the time for such events returns.

Stay well and stay safe,

David Briggs, Newsletter Editor