

# METHODIST MESSAGE

Pastor's Page...

## Be Still Before God

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad with the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations He has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

*Psalms 46: 1-11*

**The first photograph of a living person was taken by Daguerre in 1838. The photo depicts a figure in an otherwise empty avenue in Paris in the middle of an afternoon. But there is a mystery about the photo. The street and sidewalks should have been bustling with the traffic of carriages and pedestrians at that time of day, yet none can be seen. The man wasn't alone. People and horses were there on the busy Boulevard du Temple, the popular area where the photo was taken. They just didn't show up in the picture. The exposure time to process the photograph took 7 minutes to capture an image, which had to be motionless during that time. It appears that the man on the sidewalk was the sole person photographed because he was the only one standing still. Sometimes stillness accomplishes what motion and effort can't. God tells His people in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know I am God." even when nations are "in uproar" and "the earth shakes" those who quietly trust in God will discover "an ever-present help in trouble". The Hebrew verb rendered "Be still" can also be translated "cease striving". When we rest in God instead of relying on our limited efforts, we discover God to be our unassailable "refuge and strength."**



## Insights:

According to a commentary, the words of Psalms 46:10, “Be still and know I am God,” are not a call to cease activity and be silent and unconcerned. Instead, they’re words of comfort. “Be still” is a call to God’s people to “not be fearful, not fretful and impatient, or restless; but be quiet and easy, resigned to the will of God.” “And know” means to “own and acknowledge that God is God, our sovereign Being,” who is unchangeable, all powerful and able to help and deliver, and knows how and where to hide them until the storm is over.” We can rest in the assurance that God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 Charles Spurgeon, theologian, called this Psalm the “Song of Holy Confidence.” God’s people are secure in Him.

- **How will you “Show up for God by being still before him today?”**
- **Where do you need to trust God more?**

*Heavenly Creator, please help us to trust in You and to rest in the quiet awareness of Your unfailing love.*

*Pastor Billie Lou*

COMING UP LATER... PLEASE ADD TO YOUR CALENDARS...

Sunday, May 7    God's Daughters Tea    @ BUMC    2—4 pm

Thursday, May 18    Graduates Luncheon @ Breckenridge High School    11:30  
BUMC will be providing lunch & a gift to grads

## CURRENT MISSION PROJECTS

- ◆ **1st Sunday of the month we have begun taking a NOISY (loose change) OFFERING with the proceeds being used for the UM Conference *Readers to Leaders* project. The children are collecting our coins & dollars during the service.**
- ◆ **Daily LENTEN COIN CALENDARS have been distributed to children & adults that encourage us to give coins each day for the number of items we have in our homes (likes shoes, doorknobs, etc.) Our coins should be returned on Easter Sunday. These offerings will be sent to UMCOR for Earthquake victims.**

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- ◆ **PALM SUNDAY** Apr. 2 Morning service with Communion & Palms  
*What Makes a Hero-the Death-Defying Ministry of Jesus*  
(Pop Culture Hero=Superman)
- ◆ **HOLY THURSDAY** Apr. 6 Service of Holy Communion & Foot/Hand Washing (optional)  
@ SLFUMC facility 6:30pm
- ◆ **GOOD FRIDAY** Apr. 7 St Louis Community:  
12 noon @ Parkside Assembly of God OR  
7pm @ SLFUMC  
Breckenridge Community: 1pm @ tba
- ◆ **EASTER CELEBRATIONS** Apr. 9 Message: *Through Closed Doors* 9:30 @ 11

### What Makes a Hero Supper & Study

Dinner 6:00-6:25 Study 6:30-7:30

- ◆ **Wednesday, March 1** 6-7:30 PM @ BUMC  
Dinner: Meatloaf Casserole BATMAN
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 8** 6-7:30 PM @ SLFUMC  
Dinner: Breakfast for Supper SPIDERMAN
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 15** 6:7:30 PM @ BUMC  
Dinner: Pigs n' Blanket WONDER WOMAN
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 22** 6-7:30 PM @ SLFUMC  
Dinner: Cheesy Scalloped Potatoes IRON MAN
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 29** 6-7:30 PM @ BUMC  
Dinner: Taco Bar CAPTAIN AMERICA
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 5** 6-7:30 @ SLFUMC  
Dinner: Mac 'n Cheese SUPERMAN

### New Members Class

Would you like to become a member of our church? Do you know someone who would? We will be having a New Member Class on **Tuesday, March 21st**. Classes will be held at both SLFUMC and BUMC. You only need to attend one. If you have any further questions, please contact Pastor Billie Lou @ 810-241-3160.

**Tuesday, March 21st**  
2-4 @ SLFUMC  
**OR**  
6:30-8:30 @ BUMC



United  
Women  
in Faith

All Women from both churches are Welcome  
Dates to remember:

Wednesday, March 8th @1:00  
Wednesday, March 15th @ 9:30 AM  
Sunday, March 19th—after church  
Sunday, April 2nd—after church

Dorcas Circle  
Carrie Knause Circle  
Baked Potato Bash  
Palm Sunday Cookie/Candy Sale

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 18	Movie Nite	<i>Puss 'n Boots</i>	6pm
Sunday, March 19	Potato Bash fundraiser	SLFUMC	12:30pm
Tuesday, March 21	New member class	2-4pm@SLF OR 6:30-8:30@ BUMC	
Saturday, March 25	Help needed: redecorate for spring/Easter		10am
Sunday, March 26	New members join @ both churches		
Tuesday, March 28	Soup Supper @ SLF		4:30-5:30pm
Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday	Cookie Walk fundraiser @ SLFUMC	12:30
Thursday, April 6	Holy/Maundy Thursday Communion @ BUMC		7pm
Friday, April 7	Good Friday (see schedule elsewhere in newsletter)		
Sunday, April 9	Easter Celebrations	9:30@BUMC & 11@ SLFUMC	
Tuesday, April 11	United Leadership Team		6:30pm

## FABRIC NEEDED

The SLF sewing group is in need of dark colored flannel for a sewing project they are working on for the African school girls. They could also use any cotton batting. If you have any of these items left over from a sewing project, they would be happy to help you clean out your closets. Please pit in Pastor's office if you have any donations.

## Library News:

The books at the St. Louis UMC Library will shortly be evaluated just like the BUMC Library was. Lynne Holloway, Librarian, is helping both churches with this project. We will then begin to share series between the two libraries and add new books to both.

Sharon Howie recently donated a new book at the BUMC library: *A Thousand Tomorrows* by Karen Kingsbury.



## Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, March 8—Dorcas Circle Meeting @ 1 PM

Wednesday, March 15—CK Circle Meeting @ 9:30 AM

Sunday, March 19—Sunday Brunch—Baked Potato Bar

UMCOR Special Sunday Offering

Tuesday, March 21—New Member Class 2-4 @ SLFUMC **OR**

6:30-8:30 @ BUMC

Sunday, March 26—New Member Sunday

Tuesday, March 28—Soup Supper @4:30



Don't Forget...  
March 12—Move  
your clocks 1 hour  
ahead



Jack & Carol Tennant

March 17, 1958

### United Women In Faith Potato Bash

When: **March 19, 2023** after church service

Where: Fellowship Hall

Cost: Donation only

All proceeds will go toward mission projects. So, mark your calendars



*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*

Our prayers go out to the families of Lloyd Sutherland and John Shimunek. Both will be sadly missed by our church community.

Lloyd Sutherland passed away on January 30th at the age of 92. Lloyd was a longtime member of SLFUMC and was very active in the Saint Louis community. Our prayers go out to his family and friends.

John Shimunek passed away on February 10th at the age of 75. John was very active at SLFUMC and was an invaluable volunteer for the Gratiot Community Personal Needs Pantry. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

2. Elijah Irvin

5. Alex Fisher,

Connie Clarke

6. Deb Brune

10. Bryan Pyle

15. Vickie Backes

19. Emily Barlow

20. Koda Pardee

29. Gracelyn Lott



Happy St. Patrick's Day—Friday, March 17th!

**SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:**

Sherri—Mon.-Tues. 9 am—2 pm

**Email Address:**

stlouisfumc@yahoo.com

**Facebook Address:**

www.facebook.com/stlouisfumc

**THE METHODIST MESSAGE**

**“SERVING ONE ANOTHER AND SHARING GOD’S LOVE”**

**First United Methodist Church**

116 S. Franklin St.

Saint Louis, MI 48880

Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown—Pastor

Office phone: 989-681-3320

Office Fax: 989-681-5394

11:00 AM worship

**“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”**

**\*\*Please notify the church if you wish to be taken off the mailing list.**

**First United Methodist Church  
116 S. Franklin St.  
Saint Louis, MI 48880  
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