

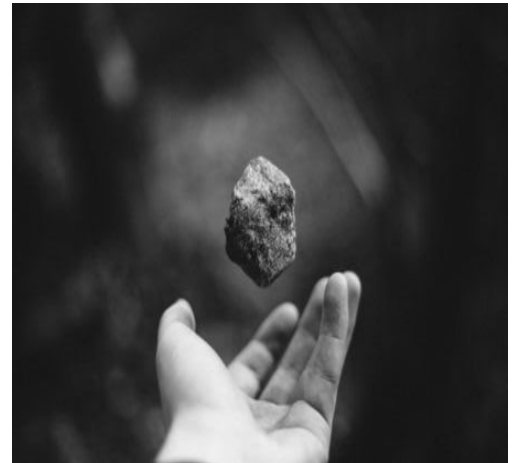
Methodist Message



February 2024

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, A season for everything

- 3 There's a season for everything
and a time for every matter under the heavens:
2 a time for giving birth and a time for dying,
a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted,
3 a time for killing and a time for healing,
a time for tearing down and a time for building up,
4 a time for crying and a time for laughing,
a time for mourning and a time for dancing,
5 **a time for throwing stones and a time for gathering stones,**
a time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces,
6 a time for searching and a time for losing,
a time for keeping and a time for throwing away,
7 a time for tearing and a time for repairing,
a time for keeping silent and a time for speaking,
8 a time for loving and a time for hating,



In worship, we've been learning from Rev. Adam Hamilton, Church of the Resurrection UMC, about **FORGIVENESS** the last few weeks by watching a DVD based on his book and study during the usual time for a message. Learning how to forgive oneself, how to ask for, receive and extend *forgiveness* to others, especially those closest to us, how many times we need to forgive each other, and lastly, forgiveness within our family structures. Rev. Hamilton has been using small, medium and large stones as a visual example of how carrying *unforgiveness* around in our hearts (like carrying around stones) affects us.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time, a season for picking stones up and casting them away. We will soon be upon the season where our farmers will be plowing the fields again, picking up the new field stones that have risen to the top of the dirt as the earth is rotated, and casting the stones into a pile for a future use. Picking up and discarding the stones in the fields is necessary for the plowed earth to be ready to receive new seed and new life. Stones of *unforgiveness* in our hearts must too be acknowledged, worked through (which sometimes takes a very long time,) receiving *forgiveness* for our words and actions that have hurt another, or extending *forgiveness* to others that have wounded us. This takes work, courage, and a willingness to change and grow on our part and on the part of others, just like picking up the stones in the fields. It is all necessary for new life to find a space of fertile soil in our lives.

If you haven't been able to join us in person, please remember that you can get caught up anytime by joining us on-line through the Facebook link to videos. There are also some copies of his book available for loan. Sometimes we need to hear these messages over and over again, I know I do.

Remember, our God is a pro at rolling stones away!

Shalom, *Pastor Billie Lou*

The Breckenridge/Merrill/Hemlock/Wheeler Ministerial is offering a Couples date night weekend experience.



What: The Ultimate Date Night Weekend with Jay and Laura Lafoon
When: Friday Night and Saturday Morning– February 23rd and 24th.

Details: Lunch provided No Children Services Provided

Where: 3765 North Chapin Road Merrill, MI 48637

Cost: \$30.00 single/ \$60.00 couple

To register: Go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search The Wonder of Love



The UWif have been working hard at making fleece blankets. They have been able to donate 13 blankets to Hope House and 30 small pet blankets to GAIN

(Gratiot Animals In Need). We need to thank Arlene Salters for donating the fleece that was used to make the blankets. Great job ladies! Keep being a blessing to those in need.

United Women In Faith Fundraiser Potato Bash



When: **March 17, 2024** after church service

Where: Fellowship Hall

Cost: Donation only

All proceeds will go toward mission projects. So, mark your calendars and plan on joining us for a potato bar with all the trimmings!



Feeling Ill?

If you are not feeling well in anyway, **please stay home.** Know that you will be missed, but it is important to remember our bigger picture and goal: to remain open for church and community missions and use. With COVID, flu, and other illnesses upon us, remember that this is not about us as individuals, but it is us as the hands and heart of Christ. This applies to all individuals and groups using the facility.



Need a Night Out? Like History? Then we have just what you need– a night out to see the play, “**Land of Patriots**” by **Diana Luehm.** This thirty minute play will be filled with laughter, history and patriotic songs. Come see Patriots that prayed to God for help and then answered the call to fight for their freedoms.

Cost: FREE

Dates: Feb. 19th & 28th

Times: 6:00 & 7:30 PM

Place: Crystal Theater 114 S. Main St. Crystal, Michigan



There is no need to worry about what lies ahead. He is always carrying us on his shoulder!

Photo courtesy of Kay Clark

February Birthdays

2. Wendy Hurst
5. Lacie Shelley
7. Dayne SanMiguel
7. Olivia Stoneman
10. Greg Shankel
18. Randy Reeves
19. Dave Locke
21. Joleen Lewis
22. Janet Edgar
23. Charlotte Bushre
25. Robert Edgar
27. Allison Shelley



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 6—BHMW Food Pantry

Thursday, February 8—YAHA at noon

Tuesday, February 13—United Leadership Team meeting 6:30 pm

Tuesday, February 14—Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent (also Valentines Day!)

9:30 Carrie Knause Mtg

1:00 Dorcas Mtg

Sunday, February 18—Sunday Brunch—following service

Friday, February 23—5th Quarter after girl's basketball game



Our sympathies go out to the family of Gala Watters. Gala passed away January 10, 2024.

5th Quarter

Friday, February 23 from 8-11pm we will open our doors to **BHS** students after the Girl's Basketball game. We need your support, please see the sign up list to find a spot where you can help.



If you or someone you know needs help with recovery, Parkside Assembly of God has a new program called, **ReCOVEry (COVE)**. It meets every Tuesday at 6 PM at Parkside Church. It is a safe place for men and women to find recovery from life controlling issues. Parkside is located at 126 E. Saginaw Street, across from the high school.



The Gratiot Community Personal Needs Pantry is in its 5th year supplementing personal need items for the underserved population of Gratiot County. Currently, the pantry has 400+ families in the client list, with 102 new families added in 2023. The pantry had 835 client visits last year. Each visit includes 4 rolls of toilet paper, dish soap, toothpaste, laundry soap, and bar soap in a pre-packaged bag. Paper towel, shampoo, dryer sheets, deodorant, Kleenex, razors, shaving cream, tampons, sanitary napkins, denture cleaner, toothbrushes, combs hair brushes, cotton swabs, band aids, liquid hand soap, and incontinence supplies are available if requested. **Bridge and SNAP cards cannot be used for any of these items.** The pantry purchases supplies from various vendors including Meijers, Sam's Club, CostCo, Aldis, Dollar Tree, Ollies and Amazon. Currently this averages \$600 per month. This is in addition to the many generous donations received from area churches, businesses, fraternal organizations, other non-profits, the prison and individuals. Thank you to the volunteers and those that have faithfully supported the pantry with items or monetary donations these past 5 years.

Blessings,
Julie Shimunek
GCPNP

Pantry Item Distribution 2023

Bar soap	1537
Dish soap	834
Laundry soap	801
Toilet paper	3504
Toothpaste	755
Denture cleaner	191
Deodorant	604
Dryer sheets	284
Kleenex	653
Paper towel	627
Sanitary pads	2928
Shampoo	482
Razors	763
Shaving cream	273
Tampons	1020
Toothbrushes	289
Liquid hand soap	326

SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:

Nancy—Thursday 8 am—1 pm

Email Address:

breckenridgeumc@yahoo.com

THE METHODIST MESSAGE

“SERVING ONE ANOTHER AND SHARING GOD’S LOVE”

United Methodist Church

125 3rd St.

P.O. Box 248

Breckenridge, MI 48615

Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown—Pastor

Office phone: 989-842-3632

9:30 AM worship

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

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

United Methodist Church
125 3rd Street * PO Box 248
Breckenridge, MI 48615

