

# Methodist Message

March 2024

## St. Louis First United Methodist Church

### *Jesus' Blood*

"When you spread out your hands in prayer,

I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

Wash and make yourself clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword."

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 1: 15 — 20

### *INSIGHT*

In Isaiah 1:18, we read, "Come now, let us settle the matter, says the LORD." Other translations read, "Come now, and let us reason together." The Creator of the universe, rather than shutting down the conversation, encourages it with the phrase "reason together." Some translations say, "to discuss" or "to argue it out." God is utterly reasonable in His expectation of us. We see God's reasonableness in Paul's letter to the Romans when Paul challenges the early church by saying, "I beseech you therefore, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your *reasonable* service (12:1) Because of all that God has done for us, it's only reasonable that we would respond to God with love and devotion.

(Bill Crowder, *Our Daily Bread*, Feb. 13, 2024)

The color red doesn't always naturally occur in the things we make. In early times, the red pigment was made from clay or crushed rocks. The Aztecs (1400) invented a way of using cochineal insects (a parasitic insect similar to an aphid) to make red (carmine) dye. Today, those same tiny insects supply the world with red.

In the bible, red denotes royalty, and it also signifies sin and shame. Red is the color of blood. When the Roman soldiers "stripped Jesus and put a scarlet robe on Him" (Matt. 27: 28) these three symbolisms merged into one heartbreaking image of red: Jesus was ridiculed as would-be royalty, He was cloaked in shame, and He was robed in the color of blood He would soon shed. Isaiah's words foretell the promise of this crimsoned Jesus to deliver us from the red that stains us. "Though your sins are like scarlet, you will be as white as snow."

Cochineal insects are actually milky white on the outside; only when they are crushed do they release their red blood. That also echoes the Isaiah's prophetic words: "(Jesus) was crushed for our iniquities (53:5.)

Jesus, who knew no sin, is here to save us who are red with sin. In Jesus' crushing death He endured a whole lot of red so we could be white as snow. There are many opportunities to give thanks to Jesus for the gift He gives us during the seasons of Lent and Easter... don't miss the chance to give back.

*Dear God, thank you for Your Son, Jesus, and the saving grace of His shed blood.*

See you in worship and ministry, *Pastor Billie Lou*





8. Isaac Bramer  
Cita Chamberlain  
11. Mary Ruth Gay  
18. Waylon McGill  
21. Larry Katt  
23. Emersyn McGill

8. Dave & Mary Beth Locke  
16. Mike & Jackie Cooper  
27. Jeff & Karen Short

NEEDED: Someone with a truck that could transport a wooden table from BUMC to STFUMC and then bring back a wooden tic-tac-toe floor game for 5th Quarter. If you can help, please speak with the Pastor.

**We have excellent servers at the audio/visual booth, BUT there's only 2— Dave Briggs and Edith Humm (thank YOU!) We need a couple more persons to help out on a rotating schedule. Men, women and older youth can do this. Training will be provided. Please speak to Dave or Edith if you could help with this important part of ministry.**

**The BHMW Food Pantry is asking for donated items for the Chance Auction which will be held on Fri. April 26 along with the Potato/Taco Bar fundraiser dinner from 5—7 pm. Items can be hand crafted or purchased. Please contact Marcy Capen 989-621-4836 or Judy Hudak 989-695-6141.**

## Holy Week Activities

### Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, March 28  
6-6:45pm Soup & Salad Supper  
7 PM @ BUMC  
Communion and Optional Foot/Hand Washing

### Good Friday Service

Friday, March 29  
There will be 3 services available in our area:  
Noon—Restoration 58: 12 (Nazarene-M46) in SL  
1:00—Free Methodist—Wheeler  
6-6:45pm Chili & Salad Soup Supper @ SLF  
7:00—SLFUMC Stations of the Cross Prayer Walk

### Holy Saturday

Saturday, March 30  
SL Community Scavenger Hunt @ Park - side Assembly at 11:00 am

### Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31  
9:30 AM Service @BUMC  
11 Am Service @SLFUMC  
•Alpha & Omega Scavenger Hunt for kids during service at both churches. Easter egg hunt after services.  
•Easter choir at both churches  
•Handbells at BUMC



# 2024 Lenten Mission Projects

We will be gathering the following items for the **Gratiot County Personal Needs Pantry** and the **BHMW Food Pantry** up until Easter day. We are also asking for **used denim jeans**— any color, any size to be used by the quilting group to make sleeping bags and carry all bags for the homeless in our area. You will find baskets and boxes under the table in the gathering area.

## **BHMW Food Pantry**

Toilet bowl cleaner  
Mustard  
Ketchup  
Pickles  
Mayonnaise  
BBQ sauce  
Coffee/tea  
Easter candy  
Salad dressing  
Liquid hand soap

## **Gratiot Co. Personal Needs Pantry**

Bar soap  
Dish soap  
Laundry soap  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Deodorant  
Shampoo  
Razors  
Shaving cream  
Liquid hand soap

## **Denim Jeans**

Any color  
Any size



**Don't Forget...**  
**Sunday, March 10—Move**  
**your clocks 1 hour ahead**

We are no longer able to recycle used ink cartridges and cell phones. The container for the used household batteries is located in the coat room.

## **United Women In Faith Potato Bash**

When: **March 17, 2023** after church service @ SLFUMC

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!



## **Upcoming Events:**

**Sunday, March 3**—3rd Sunday in Lent—Holy Communion

**Tuesday, March 5**—BHMW Food Pantry 10am-1pm

**Wednesday, March 13**—Dorcas Circle Meeting @ 1 PM

**Sunday, March 17**—Sunday Brunch

**Wednesday, March 20**—CK Circle Meeting @ 9:30 AM

**Sunday, March 24**—UWiF Cookie/Candy Walk @ SLFUMC

**Tuesday, March 26**—Community Soup Supper 4:30 SLFUMC

**Wednesday, April 3**—UWiF General Meeting @ SLFUMC



It doesn't seem possible that Easter is right around the corner. Our very popular cookie-candy sale will once again be held on Palm

Sunday following church. Items will be sold by the pound with funds going toward mission projects. We would love it if you joined us in Fellowship Hall to purchase your Easter goodies. Many items will keep or can be frozen for your Easter festivities.



**Happy St. Patrick's Day**  
**Sunday, March 17th!**

**SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:**

Nancy—Thur. 8:00 am– 1:00 pm

**Email Address:**

breckenridgeumc@yahoo.com

**THE METHODIST MESSAGE**

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

**United Methodist Church**

125 Third St.

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 St.  
Breckenridge, MI 48615

