

May 2024

Methodist Message

CAN'T OUT-LOVE GOD

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because He first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must love their brother and sister.

INSIGHT

The books of John: 1,2 and 3 John; and Revelation were all written by the apostle John (One of the “sons of thunder”; Mark 3:17) who refers to himself as, “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13: 23; 19:26). But rather than boasting, John seems to point with assurance and perhaps amazement to the knowledge that Christ loved him despite his failings. John declares: “God is love” (1 John 4: 8, 16). Because of His perfect love, we need not fear our future or eternal destiny (vv. 17-18; John 3:16). By dying on the cross, Jesus made a way for us to be with Him (vv. 9-10; John 3:16). Nothing can separate believers in Christ from God’s love (Romans 8: 38-39). In response, we’re called to love others (1 John 4:11, 20-21). Though the Spirit, we have assurance of His love and are empowered to love others (v. 13; Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22).

When my now- grown son, Xavier, was in kindergarten, he stretched his arms wide and said, “ I love you *this* much.” I stretched my longer arms wide and said, “I Love you *this* much.” Planting his fists on his hips, he said, “I loved you first.” I shook my head. “I loved you when God put you in my womb.” Xavier’s eyes widened. “You win.” “We both win,” I said, “because Jesus loved both of us first.”

As Xavier prepares for the birth of his first child, I’m praying he’ll enjoy trying to out- love His son as they make sweet memories. But as I prepare to be a grandmother, I’m amazed at how much I loved my grandson from the moment Xavier and his wife told us they were expecting a baby.



Apostle John affirmed that Jesus’ love for us gives us the ability to love Him and others (1 John 4:19). Knowing Jesus loves us gives us a sense of security that deepens our personal relationship with Him (vv. 15-17). As we realize the depth of Jesus’ love for us (v.19), we can grow in our love for Him and express love in other relationships (v.20). Not only does Jesus empower us to love, but He also commands us to love: “And God has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister” (v.21). When it comes to loving well, God always wins. No matter how hard we try, we can’t out-love God!
Our Daily Bread, April 2024

As we come to the end of the season of Eastertide in the church we are reminded that Jesus’ love for us never ends and that we are called to be His love in the world.

May 5th we’ll celebrate Jesus’ love through the sharing of communion.

May 12th we’ll celebrate Mother’s day and the festival of the Christian Home, another reminder of how much we’re all loved and cared for.

May 19th is Pentecost Sunday and we celebrate God’s great love for us through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

May 26th is Memorial Sunday and I hope we gather to remember those who loved us enough to lay down their lives for us.

See you in worship and ministry.

Pastor Billie Lou

General Conference of the UMC

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church is April 23-May 3. The postponed General Conference will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. To connect with the news, there are several ways to view:

- Follow on Facebook or X (formerly Twitter)
- #UMCGC
- www.DailyChristianAdvocate.org

Main topics to be discussed/decided will be:

- * Regionalization of the world UMC
- * Revised Social Principles
- * Amendments of equality
- * Changes to the US Clergy benefits
- * Changes to the general Book of Discipline, specifically human sexuality wording.

Music & Arts Camp

Where: SLFUMC, 116 S. Franklin St. St. Louis

When: Mon. June 17-Wed. June 19
9 am-12 noon

What: Learn about different instruments
And
Learn about different artists and styles of art;
complete several projects to take home

Who: Kindergarten-Middle School
Nursery available 18 mo-4/5 yr.
Parents are welcome to participate

How Much\$: FREE!!

Join us **Thursday, June 20th from 7-8 pm** for a Gallery Open House where family members can view all the projects and then take the projects home.

Pre-register by leaving a message at

989-681-3320

Michigan Conference of the UMC

The Michigan Conference UMC will meet in Traverse City from Wednesday May 29-Saturday June 1 for the Annual Conference. Pastor Billie Lou will be joined by Linda Johnson and Nancy Gee, who will represent the churches. Pastor Billie Lou will be recognized on Wednesday, May 29th at the 7pm retirement celebration followed by a reception. Pastor Billie Lou will continue to serve SLFUMC and BUMC in retirement.

Music & Arts Camp

Where: BUMC, 125 Third St. Breckenridge

When: Mon. June 24-Wed. June 26
9 am-12 noon

What: Learn about different instruments
And
Learn about different artists and styles of art;

complete several projects to take home

Who: Kindergarten-Middle School
Nursery available 18 mo-4/5 yr.
Parents are welcome to participate

How Much\$: FREE!!

Join us **Thursday, June 27th from 7-8 pm** for a Gallery Open House where family members can view all the projects and then take the projects home.

Pre-register by leaving a message at

989-842-3632

MEMORIAL SUNDAY FLOWERS

If you would like to remember someone who has passed on Memorial Sunday, May 26th (which is also Pentecost Sunday) by donating \$5.00 **for each person's name** that you wish to honor, then use the small form found on the table in the gathering area and place that along with the \$5.00 in the church office. Names will be printed on an insert in the bulletin and flowers will be purchased with the monies for the Memorial Garden and church grounds.



Baby Bottle Boomerang Campaign 2024

Once again we will be supporting the Pregnancy Services of Gratiot County with the Baby Bottle Boomerang fund raiser. **Starting in May**, baby bottles will be available for you to take home. Fill it up with your loose change and bills, then return it to the church **by Father's Day**. The campaign runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day. All proceeds go to the Pregnancy Services of Gratiot County who will use it to help moms, dads and babies in need right here in Gratiot County.

Ponder this....

My grandmother always drank her coffee like this! I thought it was because it was too hot. Do you remember older generations drinking from their saucer? Then today I came across this poem that made me feel there was symbolism to the coffee ritual.

Drinking From My Saucer By John Paul Moore



I've made a fortune and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.
And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
I don't have lots of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.
I thank God for His blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.
So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.
And I may never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.



United
Women
in Faith

Church Friends,

Not long ago I was given a small devotional called God's Little Promise Book (1995, Word Inc). The verses are short and the commentary concise. Yesterday's reading was I Corinthians 12: 18 NKJV

But now God has set the members, each one of them in the body just as He pleased.

What struck me was the commentary:

Some Christians journey barefoot, others with designer shoes. The truth is, it's not the shoes that count, but the feet in the shoes.

As I read this I thought of our ladies in United Women in Faith. We all have different personalities, varied experiences, and skill sets but we all place our feet in the same direction– serving others. How great it is that we are able to come together and work towards common goals.

Recent Donations:

Through good works and support of our congregation we were able to make notable donations at our last business meeting in April.

- First we donated \$1000 to the church's general fund to be used where needed.
- Much of our emphasis has always been improving the lives of women and children. With this in mind donations were made to the Youth For Christ program and Pregnancy Services of Gratiot County.
- Monies were also contributed to the Salvation Army, Hope House, and the Commission on Aging.

We are pleased we could support these local efforts.

4th Thursday Sandwich Supper

The circles have once again taken the responsibility of the 4th Thursday free community meals for the next 5 months. In the warmer months it will be a "sandwich supper" and allows the soup supper folks to have a break. We appreciate those who volunteered to chair.

May 28	Mary Reichard	Carrie Knause
June 25	Peggy Mikek	Carrie Knause
July 23	Lou Irvin	Carrie Knause
Aug. 27	Brenda Siefka	Dorcas
Sept. 24	Sue Baker	Dorcas





United
Women
in Faith

UWiF Continued...

Thank you

- If you enjoy the seasonal decorated tree in Fellowship Hall, thank Peggy Mikek and Lou Irvin. They share their creative gifts with us and it is so much fun to see what they come up with next!
- I've received many thank yous and positive comments about the lovely goodie bags Carrie Knause Circle made and delivered to our shut in members. It is really appreciated.
- The Memorial Committee has purchased a new utility cart for the kitchen. Many thanks. It will be used often and will be a big help

Dates to remember:

- May 6** **Potluck luncheon** at Carson City UMC. Reservations are required. If interested check out the flyer on the Narthex table.
- May 8** **Dorcas Circle** 1:00-Fellowship Hall
Hostess and Program—Nancy Hodges
- May 15** **Carrie Knause Circle** 9:30—Fellowship Hall
Devotions—Lena Nelson
Refreshments - Lou Irvin

In Closing, if you are interested in fun fellowship and enjoy working toward a goal with others; UWiF may be for you! Feel free to join us and learn more. Wear any shoes you wish!

Blessings,
Sue Baker

Updated Information Needed

Please contact the office if you need to update your information for:

- One Call Tell All**
- Prayer Chain**
- Directory**
- E-mail for newsletters**

If you need to be added to a list, taken off a list or just need to change your information, you may call the office at 989-842-3632, leave a message on the machine, leave a note on the office desk or email your information to breckenridgeumc@yahoo.com.

Thank you.
Nancy



Wednesday, May 1 - The Chosen Bible Study Class @ BUMC—7:00

Tuesday, May 7— United Leadership Team @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, May 8— Dorcas Circle Mtg @1 PM

Wednesday—May 8 - The Chosen Bible Study Class @ SLFUMC—7:00

Sunday, May 12—Mother’s Day Service

Monday, May 13—Senior Recognition and Lunch @ 11:00am

Wednesday, May 15— Carrie Knause Mtg @ 9:30 AM

Wednesday—May 15 - The Chosen Bible Study Class @ BUMC—7:00

Saturday, May 18— Community May Celebration @ 4:00 pm

Sunday, May 19— Pentecost Sunday

Wednesday—May 22 - The Chosen Bible Study Class @ SLUMC—7:00

Sunday, May 26—Peace with Justice Sunday (Trinity Sunday and Memorial Sunday)

Tuesday, May 28—Sandwich Supper @ SLFUMC

Wednesday, May 29 - The Chosen Bible Study Class @ BUMC—7:00

Friday, May 31—Middle School ice cream event @ 10:00 am

Sunday, June 9—Graduation



1. Angie Sherwood
1. Katie Short
3. Jim Brown
3. Lesha Colthorp
4. Wayne Crambell
12. Jameson Gulick
14. Andrea Randall
16. Bethany Colbry
20. Mary Beth Locke
21. Dave Stoneman
25. Cheryl Reeves
27. Dave Briggs
29. Kimberlee Rossmann



If you know of a graduate that needs to be honored on **Graduation Sunday**, please notify the office. Graduates can be from high school, college, tech or trade schools. Graduation Sunday will be held on **Sunday, June 9th**.

NOTICE:

We are no longer able to recycle ink cartridges and cell phones. The Container for batteries to be recycled has been moved to the coat room. Thank you.



HEALTH CARE TEAM

Will be checking blood pressures on the 1st Sunday of each month.

May 5—Lois Arthur

Linda Nagel

June 2—Cortney Harrison

Janet Edgar

July 7— Jamie Bott

Linda Nagel

August 4—Karen Short

Janet Edgar

SECRETARY OFFICE HOUR

Nancy—Thursday 8am— 1 pm

Email Address:

breckenridgeumc@yahoo.com

THE METHODIST MESSAGE

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

First 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 Third St.
Breckenridge, MI 48615

