

The Methodist Message



2024

HANNAH MARCHET
ILLUSTRATIONS

Pastor's Page.....

THE GREAT DIVIDE

Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. They came to him and said, “Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn’t we?”

But Jesus knew they were hypocrites. “Why are you trying to trap me?” he asked. “Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” They brought the coin, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesars,” they replied. Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” And they were amazed at him. (*Mark 12: 13-17*)

INSIGHT:

Part of the reason the religious leaders tried to “catch Jesus in his words” (*Mark 12:13*) was to discredit Him and charge Him with blasphemy for claiming to be God (*see Matthew 26: 63-65; Luke 20:20*). Jesus made an exclusive claim that “He’s the Messiah (*Matthew 26: 63-64*) and the only way to the Father: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (*John 14:6*). The book of Acts underscores the exclusive claim: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved” (*Acts 4:12*). John makes it clear when he wrote, “We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world” (*1 John 4:14*). The good news is that in Christ, we have our Savior! -Bill Crowder

In a classic *Peanuts* comic strip, Linus’ friend berates him for his belief in the Great Pumpkin. Walking away dejectedly, Linus says, “There are three things I have learned never to discuss with people...religion, politics, and the Great Pumpkin!” The Great Pumpkin only existed in Linus’ head, but the other two topics are oh-so-real—dividing nations, families, and friends. The problem occurred in Jesus’ day as well. The Pharisees were deeply religious and tried to follow the Old Testament law to the letter, The Herodians were more political, yet both groups wanted to see the Jewish people freed from the Roman oppression. Jesus didn’t seem to share their goals. So they approached Him with a politically charged question: Should the people pay taxes to Caesar (*Mark 12: 14-15*)? If Jesus said yes, the people would resent Him. If He said no, the Romans could arrest Him for insurrection. Jesus asked for a coin. “Whose image is this? He asked (v.16). Everyone knew it was Caesar’s. Jesus’ words resonant today: “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s” (v.17). His priorities in order, Jesus avoided their trap. Jesus came to do His Father’s will. Following His lead, we too can seek God and His kingdom above all else, directing the focus away from all the dissension and toward the one who is the Truth. - Tim Gustafson, “Our Daily Bread” 10/24

What divisive issues trouble you?

How might keeping your eyes on Jesus help guide your conversations today?

Father, I need Your wisdom and guidance for all my interactions.



News From Pastor Billie Lou for Clarification on Retirement and Vacation Plans...

Following the United Methodist Book of Discipline, all clergy must retire at 72. I turned 72 last December, so on July 1st, 2024 I officially retired after 25 years of full time clergy leadership plus 25 years of serving as lay staff in two congregations, plus on district and Conference Boards.

The District Superintendent, Rev. John Kasper, I and the combined Staff-Pastor/Parish Relations Committees began conversations about the needs of myself and Roger and both congregations a year ago. The decision was agreed upon that I would continue serving both congregations full time one year at a time. This also was approved by the Bishop. I agreed to do that, but asked for no further increase in salary (3% is the norm). I requested that I would regain 2 extra weeks of vacation which I gave up to take this 2-point charge in 2020 (4 weeks is mandatory). In addition to that, approximately every 6-8 weeks (sometimes less or more) I would be away if there were no meetings or crucial activities scheduled for that work week (this will not include Sundays).

Recently, we looked at that agreement again for the 2025-2026 year. The decision was to continue. For the current year I took the month of August off and two more weeks at the end of September and the beginning of October. The weeks were too close together, so next summer I will schedule a little differently. An emergency pastor is scheduled as needed. This year's weeks were based on berry picking and Roger's birthday; both important to me. We used a DVD series on the life on Simon Peter that I already had (\$0), DVD on the story of how John Newton wrote the hymn, "Amazing Grace" and Sweet Adelines lead both services on September 29th. Pulpit supplies (using a guest speaker) costs each church \$200.00 per week and pastors/speakers are very difficult to find and schedule. By using the videos each church saved at least \$1000. If you have suggestions for next year, please share.

I'm writing this so that we are all on the same page—understanding—since I've heard some comments and questions through the church grapevines.

Looking forward to the future together.

Pastor Billie Lou



Copper Harbor -9/24



United
Women
in Faith

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this fall will be well underway and summer a memory. I hope you had a wonderful, memory filled summer. The ladies had a busy season with class reunions and the monthly Tuesday sandwich supper. This is the second year the United Women in Faith have prepared the sandwich meals May-September to give the soup supper crew a break and the St. Louis class reunion dinners have become a must for many St. Louis alumni. In total the UWif ladies prepared over 600 meals this summer. A big thank you goes out to the many who have helped and prepared cakes for dessert.

Mary Reichard	Peggy Mikek
Lou Irvin	Terry Bailey
Brenda Siefka	Pam Amiels
Gladys Poindexter	Kay Clark
Phyllis Clark	Bonnie Richardson
Nancy Hodges	Connie Clarke
Carol Tennant	

We have always had assistance from non members and appreciate you! Thank you to:

Mike Reichard	Ruth Gibbs
Jo Ward	Judy Sparling

I used to fret the night before an event with thoughts of, "Will we have enough food? Will the food be ready by the designated time? Will those who signed up remember to come?" I need not worry. The UWif ladies always show up, pitch in, and get things done! It's an honor to be part of such a great group.

I also must admit I've had thoughts of Christmas at night. (Yes, it may seem premature but it's less than 100 days away and if your family celebrates early; planning is a must!). So my mind goes to my favorite Christmas movie, White Christmas. While the title song by Irving Berlin is legendary, my favorite is the song Counting My Blessings Instead of Sheep. It goes:

*When I'm worried and I can't sleep
I count my blessings instead of sheep...
I fall asleep counting my blessings.*

This is especially true when I think of the women of United Women in Faith. They are certainly a blessing to our church and community.

Sleep well,
Sue Baker
President, UWif

OTHER NEWS:

Officers were elected at the September business meeting.

President	Sue Baker
Vice President	Gladys Poindexter
Secretary	Mary Reichard
Treasurer	Terry Bailey
Nominations	Kay Clark
Funeral Luncheons	Brenda Siefka

MEETINGS

Circle Meetings meet in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to join.

Dorcas— October 9 @ 1:00

Hostess: Sue Baker
Program: Sue Baker

Carrie Knause—October 16 @ 9:30

Program: Carol Tennant
Refreshments: Phyllis Clark

Dorcas—November 13 @ 1:00

Hostess: Brenda Siefka
Program: Brenda Siefka

UPCOMING EVENTS

United Women In Faith
Fundraiser

Potato Bash



Who: United Women in Faith

When: November 17, 2024, after the church service

Where: Fellowship Hall

Cost: Donation Only

All proceeds will go toward Mission Projects
*** Take Out Available**

December 4- Annual Christmas Party
Luncheon at 12:00 Noon

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

- SLFUMC will be decorating a light pole near Jim's Barbershop with a fall theme. Contact Peggy Mikek or Pastor Billie Lou to help.
- St. Louis downtown trick or treating will be October 31 from 5:30-7:30 pm
- BUMC trick or treating will be October 31 from 5:30-7 pm in the church parking lot.



- Do you have an afternoon available the week of October 6-October 12th? We are looking for volunteers to help the Pastor take communion to the shut-ins. If you would like to help with this please contact the pastor, or call the office and leave a message (989-842-3632).
- We are also looking for people to send personal cards or notes, make phone calls or visit those who are shut in or in need. This is a joy and privilege to care for our brothers and sisters in Christ and invites us to intentionally care for each other. There is a sign up on the table in the narthex if this something you would be willing to do.



All Saints Sunday will be held on Sunday, November 3rd. The families of all those who passed into eternity during the last 12 months (November 28-November 24) will be invited to join us as we honor and remember how they have touched our lives. A candle will be lit for each person.. Non-members will also be remembered and the congregation

will be invited to light a candle for anyone they wish to remember.

COMMUNITY CHOIR

Come join the community choir! We will be performing The Voices of Christmas by Joseph M. Martin on Sunday, December 15th at 7:00 PM. All rehearsals will take place in the sanctuary of the St. Louis First United Methodist Church located at 116 E. Franklin Street. Contact Pat Pyle at 989-330-0753 for more information.

Rehearsal Schedule:

(1:00-2:15 PM)

October 27

November 3

November 10

November 17

November 24

December 1

December 8



Dress Rehearsal:

December 14th 10:00 AM-11:30

Performance:

December 15 at 7:00 PM

Church Full of Treats

The Outreach Committee will be hosting the community on Halloween to a Church Full of Treats. The event will take place on Halloween night from 5:30 – 7 PM. We need the congregation to help by bringing in candy, like we have in the past, and placing those bags of candy in the Halloween boxes located in the Narthex area. If the boxes aren't out, they will be in the old choir room. There is a sign-up sheet for those of you that are willing to pass out the candy from the trunks of your cars on that night and for those of you that would like to help out by distributing hot dogs to our visitors on Halloween.





2. RANDY CRAMBELL
3. ROGER BROWN
NANCY GEE
6. LAURALEI MCGILL
7. BRANDON POSEY
11. MARILYN KATT
13. CHASE GULICK
18. JACOB MCGILL
21. DENISE GULICK
BRIAN POSEY
23. RUTH GIBBS
25. MAKENZIE CZARNECKI
27. SANDY HUMM
30. NORA GULICK



DALE & CHARLOTTE
BUSHRE
OCT. 23, 1954



Communion is served the first Sunday of every month. October 6th we will be a special communion as we will be observing World Communion Sunday. There will be a special second-mile offering. Reminder: Everyone is welcome to take communion at BUMC.



SOUP'S ON....

This month soup returns for the Free Community Supper at **SLFUMC**. There will be 4 types of soups to choose from as well as a salad, bread and a cookie. This month's dinner will be held on **Tuesday, October 22nd from 4:30—5:30** or until we run out. So mark your calendars and warm up with a nice bowl of soup!

Mark Johnson Donations

One of our former pastors, Mark Johnson is a member of the Cereal City Orchestra. They have been invited to perform in Austria next year. He is asking for financial help for their group in making this trip. If you would like to help out, there is a box on the sign-up table where you can put your donations. We will collect the box and the donations on October 13 and send Mark the money at that point.



BHS students are invited to a 5th Quarter for a time of fun, fellowship and food! Our next 5th Quarter is Friday October 25 from 8-11pm. Volunteers are needed for serving, game supervision and clean up.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- Sunday, October 6—World Communion Sunday
- Thursday, October 10—YAHA at noon
- Sunday, October 13 —Charge Conference @ 6 PM at Alma UMC—Leaders are expected to attend, church family is encouraged to attend.
- Wednesday October 16—Carrie Knause Circle Meets @9:30 AM
- Friday, October 25— 5th Quarter

SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:

Nancy—Thursday 8am-1pm

Email Address:

breckenridgeumc@yahoo.com

THE METHODIST MESSAGE

“SERVING ONE ANOTHER AND SHARING GOD’S LOVE”

United Methodist Church

125 Third St.

P.O.Box 248

Breckenridge, MI 48615

Billie Lou Gillespie—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**

