



Methodist Message

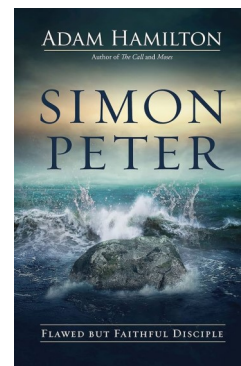
July 2024

Pastor's Page...

Summer Sermon Series:

After serving 25 years in the Michigan Conference of the UMC I formally retire on Monday, July 1st. Retirement is mandatory for pastors at 72. I turned 72 last December. Last Fall the combined Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee members agreed that I would continue serving St. Louis First and Breckenridge for at least one more year (July 1, 2025). An agreement was made that I would not receive a raise in pay, but would get back two weeks of vacation that I gave up when appointed to this 2 point charge, for a total of 6 weeks paid vacation. I will also take time off approximately every 6 weeks (mostly to go to Copper Harbor). This will happen when the schedule allows (no meetings, major activities, office work completed and visitations/calls/connections reasonable completed). I'm calling those weeks "time off for good behavior." I will not be gone on Sundays.

For the 6 Sundays of vacation there will be a variety of pulpit supply ideas which include speakers from the congregations, community speakers, hymn sings, and video series. I will be on vacation this summer from August 7th to September 5th, that includes 4 Sundays. We will begin a 6 week video series on the life of Simon Peter presented by UMC Pastor, Rev. Adam Hamilton. We will begin the series the week before I go on vacation and we will complete it the week I return. The scheduled leaders/liturgists will lead the services in my absence. There will be no communion in September. I am looking for persons who would like to do a children's message at one or both churches for the 4 Sundays I am gone. I have lots of ideas and wonderful children's books that could be read. Please leave a message if you'd like to lead a kid's message.



Annual Conference Review:

I attended the 2024 Annual Conference of the Michigan Area U.M.C. a few weeks ago along with lay representative from both churches, Linda Johnson (SLF) and Nancy Gee (BUMC). I attended one extra day, Wednesday, where the 2024 retirees were acknowledged in a special gathering and reception. On Thursday, the clergy met with Bishop David Bard where the "state of the Michigan area church" was discussed. The Lay Representatives also had a scheduled time with the Bishop and Michigan area leaders.

While there is still anxiety and sadness, as well as questions waiting for answers, I experienced a feeling of hopefulness and forgiveness. The worship services and especially the amazing music were all highlights for me. The Bishop and the multitude of speakers were uplifting and informative.

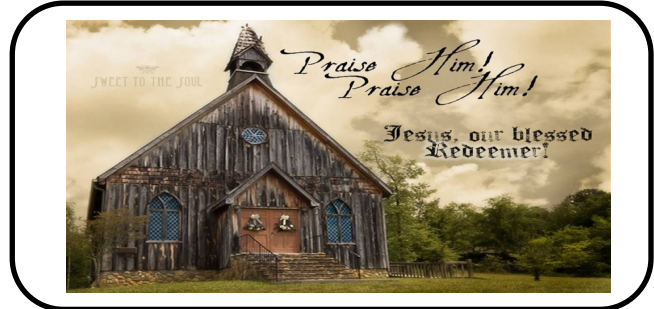
Over 40 pastors retired, while only a handful of candidates were ordained as deacons and elders. We have a shortage of clergy leaders as most other denominations do, too. Lots of prayers needed for leadership.

The Michigan Conference will vote next year whether to accept the proposed changes to the Book Of Discipline concerning the allowance of persons who have declared themselves as LGBTQ to be ordained as deacons or elders in the church. (Remember, no local church will be forced into having an LGBTQ pastor, not will any church be forced to allow gay marriages in their local church, each church will make its own decisions). Again, regardless of your own beliefs we should all be in prayer for unity and grace.

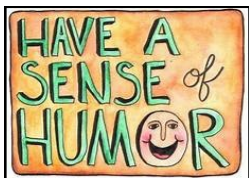
Pastor Billie Lou



SLF and BUMC are both looking for persons interested in being a liturgist/leader on Sunday mornings. This is generally one Sunday a month on alternating months. If interested, see the Pastor or contact the office.



Have you always wanted to know more about the work the AV people do in the church??? Well... this is your opportunity to learn all about it. We are in need of volunteers to help in the Audio/Visual Booth on Sunday mornings. Both SLF and BUMC are in need of help. If this sounds like something you would like to become involved in, please notify the Pastor or call the office and we will be happy to give you more information. Anyone can do it... with just a little bit of training.



A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!'

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again!

As she ran she once again began to pray, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!'



United
Women
in Faith

Greetings Friends,

As I write this there is an extreme heat warning encompassing much of the country with temperatures up to 100 degrees.

However, in this early morning; I'm covered with a cool breeze as I have my coffee and daily patio chat with the cat.

I'm first reminded of the 1972 hit by Seals and Croft, *Summer Breeze*. If you are a product of the 70's or a radio listener you may be familiar with its chorus, "*Summer breeze makes me feel fine, blooming through the jasmine of my mind.*" It was such a hit the Isley Brothers recorded it in 1975 giving it a jazz twist. The original version has been voted as the number 13th all time best summer song (Billboard Magazine). It is a reminder to me that there is relief of daily worries. Our friends and family can be our comfort, as can our faith in Christ. When things get, "too hot to handle" I Peter reminds us.

Cast all your anxiety on him, because He cares for us.

I Peter 5:7 (NIB)

This verse is a reminder that our faith can be a source of respite, like a summer breeze when we need it most.

KITCHEN NEWS:

The ladies have a cleaning day for the kitchen and pantry on June 25. Just a note to all who put items in the refrigerator and freezer; date of purchase/expiration need to be labeled. We hate to toss items away so if you're using containers (like egg cartons) please scratch out the expiration day and put in a new date.

SANDWICH SUPPERS:

Sandwich suppers continue. Thank you to Mary Reichard and Carrie Knause Circle who completed May. Upcoming suppers are scheduled for:

June—Peggy Mikek, Carrie Knause Circle

July—Lou Irvin—Carrie Knause Circle

August—Brenda Siefka, Dorcas Circle

September—Sue Baker, Dorcas Circle

By the time you read this our June sandwich supper and kitchen/pantry clean up may be completed, so many thanks to all!

CLASS REUNIONS:

Keeping with tradition, the ladies are hosting 3 class reunions.

July 17—Class of 1959

August 7—Class of 1960/61

September 5—Class of 1956

Our first fall meeting is a business meeting on **Wednesday, September 4 at 1:00** with Dorcas Circle as hostess. We welcome any new members, we may be the "*summer breeze*" you need!

Blessings,

Sue Baker, UWIF

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1. Gary Acton
6. Bridgitt Myers
Kristy Navarre
Dirk Stoneman
7. Marisa Bramer
9. Donna Juskialas
Ella Wingle
13. Jim Buchanan
14. Levi Wright
17. Loretta Briggs
21. Ginger Vetter



July 10, 1982
Dave & Karen Stoneman

July 24, 2004
Ryan & Andrea Randall

July 11, 1970
Larry & Marilyn Katt

Music & Arts Camp

The Annual Music and Arts Camp at BUMC was a huge success! The camp was attended by 20 children that made some amazing art! Below are pictures, from the SLFUMC, of some of the masterpieces:



Tuesday, July 9—BHMW Food Pantry
10am– 1 pm

Thursday, July 11—Y.A.Y.A. @ noon
Personal Needs Pantry @ SLFUMC 12-3pm

Friday, July 12—Loons baseball game
outing

Saturday, July 13—City Of Saint Louis
Fireworks Display– dusk

Friday, July 19 - travel to Fowerville to
CRI to drop off donated books and bibles.
9am– 3pm



The Gratiot Community Personal Needs Pantry celebrated their 5th anniversary on June 20th. The volunteers thank all those that have supported the pantry, which continues to provide personal needs products for the underserved families of Gratiot County. The pantry is open every Thursday from 12-3.

Thank You!

A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped make this year's Music and Art Camp a success. It takes A LOT of people to make the Camp a success and you showed up in the heat and did an amazing job! Your gifts of time and talent are much appreciated!

SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:

Nancy Thursday 8-1

Email Address:

breckenridgeumc@yahoo.com

THE METHODIST MESSAGE
“SERVING ONE ANOTHER AND SHARING
GOD’S LOVE”

First United Methodist Church

125 Second 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 Street
Breckenridge MI 48615**

