

The Methodist Message



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Pastor's Page...

Ministry of Reconciliation

¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! ¹⁸ All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" ²¹ God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 CEB

We are thinking mostly about the season of Thanksgiving and preparations for Advent/Christmas at this time of the year—and we have much to be thankful for...

It is also a time of year to think about relationships—our relationship with God, our family and church family, our community and the world. In this season we remember that the God we worship and serve is a God of love, grace and mercy and calls us into relationships of reconciliation.

The first broken relationship we see in the Scriptures (Genesis 3) is that of Adam and Eve. Because of their disobedience their relationships with God are ruined and there is a cost in reconciling their relationship with each other and with God as individuals and as a couple.

The second relationship in the Scriptures that needs reconciliation is that of Cain and Abel (Genesis Chapter 4) the sons of Adam and Eve. Unfortunately, there was no happy ending for these brothers relationship, no reconciliation. Cain kills Abel in a fit of jealousy and Cain is cursed by God for his actions. All relationships are broken and Cain is doomed to wander the earth alone.

The next broken relationship we see in the Scriptures is that of brothers Ishmael and Issac, the sons of Abraham (Genesis 21.) Once again jealousy is a reason for their broken relationship. Sarah the mother of Issac, the second born son is jealous of Hagar (their servant) and Ishmaels (first born) relationship to Abram. Sarah convinces Abraham to exile Hagar and Ishmael. God chooses to save Hagar and Ishmael. From Ishmaels descendants the Islamic faith is born. As we know from today's newscasts, there has been no reconciliation between the Jewish and Islamic faiths (yet.) Both world faiths still believe in "an eye for an eye" and we pray for an end to the violence on both sides and for reconciliation to begin so we can all worship the one true God together.

The next relationship needing reconciliation is of Jacob and Esau. Brothers, whose father, Issac and mother, Rebekah, have pitted the two sons against each other again through jealousy. Jacob flees after robbing his brother of his birth rights as the oldest son. Many years later we see the brothers reconcile, but then they separate and go their own way again, instead of strengthening their former broken relationship. This is just partial reconciliation (Genesis 21.)

We can read the broken relationships of Joseph and his brothers later in Genesis. In the end of Joseph's story we finally see a true lasting reconciliation between Father Jacob, and all his sons.

Use this season of thanksgiving to think about any relationships that need mending in your life. There are many things, and people, in our world that try to tear us all apart. God calls us to be in relationship with Him and each other. To laugh together, cry together, and to get on with the work that God needs each of us to be a part of. At Thanksgiving and throughout Advent and Christmas can it be possible that we could extend God's love, grace, and mercy to all?

Blessings and much Prayers,
Pastor Billie Lou



Dear Friends,

November is a time to pause and give thanks. Growing up, fall harvest and Thanksgiving were important to celebrate for our family and families in our little farming community. Our one room school houses were just several miles apart; everyone knew each other.

When crops were harvested I could see the Edgewood Church of God (my home church) and Lafayette Presbyterian from my house. Both churches had harvest dinners, so of course, everyone attended each others! It was an annual event to gather together and give thanks; regardless if the bounty was large or small. There were undoubtable challenging and difficult years, but Paul's words to the Galatian people reflect the inner fortitude of many.

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right; for we reap at harvest time if we do not give up. So then whenever we have the opportunity. Let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. Galatians 6: 9,10 (NIB)

Looking Ahead:

The ladies sell RADA utensils. You can view them in the case near the kitchen. Specialty items can also be ordered. They are handy and make great Christmas stocking stuffers. See Brenda Siefka for more information.

November 17th

Potato Bash immediately following church. This event has been so popular we brought it back for fall. We are aware this is the first weekend of deer season but hope those who are here will stay for food and fellowship. The free will offering will benefit local children, youth and women.

December 4th

United Women in Faith Christmas luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon. All ladies of the church are invited; non-members please RSVP to Sue Baker.

May you have much to give thanks for this Thanksgiving season.

Sue



UPCOMING EVENT : Saturday December 7 -
The ladies of Immanuel Church, Wheeler, will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Walk , from 9am to 2pm. The bazaar will feature

Christmas and specialty cookies at \$7.00 per dozen, mix or match; vendors and crafters; baked goods and candy. The church is located on M-46, between Breckenridge and Merrill at 10020 East Monroe Rd, Wheeler.



ADVENT – CHRISTMAS NEWS

THEME:

Our 2024 Advent-Christmas theme is: *On the Way to Bethlehem* based on a book and study by Rev. Rob Fuquay (UMC) and designed by Rev. Marcia McFee (UMC.) In worship and mid-week study we'll visit the six places where the story of Jesus' birth unfold: Rome, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, The Manger, and Persia. Places shape us and shape our stories. By focusing on the places that shaped the path of Jesus birth story, we learn more about why Jesus' life, ministry, and death became one of the most significant stories of human history (His story!)

DECORATIONS:

Family Tree – Both churches are inviting your family (no matter the size) to bring in an ornament for the tree in Fellowship Hall to represent your family... a **Church Family Tree**. It doesn't have to be fancy or homemade—just what you think represents you. Please bring it to the church BEFORE hanging of the Greens ([11/25-SLF](#), [11/24-B](#)) and put it on the table or cart in the gathering area.

Creche's/Nativity's – We are decorating the both entire facilities again with creche's (nativities) if you have one or more creche's we can borrow for several weeks, please LABEL and bring to the church before the Hanging of the Greens dates (See above.) Place on the cart in the gathering area.

HANGING OF THE GREENS:

Please make a little bit of time to help decorate the churches for Advent & Christmas. Hanging of the Greens at [St. Louis](#) will be [Monday, November 25 from 4-7p.m.](#) A simple supper will be offered to those helping from 6-6:30p.m. [Breckenridge](#) will hang greens on [Sunday, November 24th from 3 – 5pm](#) with a simple supper available for those helping at 6p.m. Folks of any age and ability are welcome to help— always a joyous time!

SHORT-TERM ADULT STUDY WITH SIMPLE SUPPER:

A 4-week adult mid-week study will be offered using the dvd and study that goes with our 2024 theme: *On the Way to Bethlehem*. We'll explore in-depth four of the six locations surrounding the birth of Jesus: Rome, Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem (+ the Manger & Persia.) All studies will be held at the [St. Louis](#) location this time. A simple supper will be offered from 6-6:30pm and then the study from 6:30-8pm. Come for supper or just the study. If you need a ride or childcare please let Pastor know. There will be a sign up list with supper needs. No cost. *Wednesdays: Nov. 27, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 18.*

SHORT-TERM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHOIR and CANTATA:

Pat Pyle will direct a short-term community choir which will offer to our communities a cantata by Joseph Martin: *The Voices of Christmas* on **Sunday, December 15th at 7:00 P.M.** Christy Schnizlein will be the accompanist. The cantata will be held at the [St. Louis](#) sanctuary. Rehearsals are on Sundays from 1-2:15p.m. at the [St. Louis](#) facility. Older youth and adults all welcome, we have a wonderful group of singers from both communities preparing for this beautiful gift. The cantata will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY:

The [Breckenridge Kids Church](#) will present a gift to our congregations on Sunday, Dec. 8 during the **9:30am BUMC** service. The children's book *The Santa Prayer* by Ray Gauer will be transformed into the Kid's Church presentation. Practices will be starting soon during Kids Church time. Dress rehearsal is Sat. Dec. 7 from 9:30-11a.m. Kids of all ages and abilities are welcome to join in.



ADVENT –CHRISTMAS NEWS CONTINUED

MISSION PROJECT:

We will all be encouraged to pick up a paper angel displayed at both churches which will list a small item to be purchased for our shut-ins, assisted living home friends, and clients of 2 other local nursing homes. Gifts such as scarves, socks, slippers, lap blankets, notepaper, sugar-free candy, puzzles, etc. will be listed for men and women. Pick up a paper angel, purchase the item listed, wrap the gift (paper or bag) tape the paper angel onto your gift and return by Sun. Dec. 15th. Please DO NOT include personal greetings/ cards and notes— your gift is being given from the whole church family, not you as an individual. The BUMC Outreach Team is coordinating this project for both churches. Delivery persons will be needed from both churches the week of Dec. 16—22.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING:

All are welcome to spread the joy of Christmas by singing Christmas carols on Sun. Dec. 22 from 3-5pm outside Main Street Pizza in Breckenridge. We will be gifting persons entering the pizza place not only with song but with a small financial gift towards their pizza purchase and an invitation to Christmas Eve services. From 4:30-5pm those who have participated in the caroling will enjoy pizza at Main Street to finish off their good time! The BUMC Outreach Team is sponsoring this activity. All ages are invited from both churches.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES—TUESDAY, DEC. 24 EVENING SERVICES:

The Christmas Eve services will be offered at **5:00PM** at **Breckenridge** and **& 7:00PM** at **St. Louis.** The services will be similar to the past---children and youth will be invited to help build the nativity scene as we hear the story and sing the songs declaring Christ's birth.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GAME NIGHT:

For a 2nd year we will offer a New Year's Eve Game Nite... many of you gather with family and friends on this night, but for all others interested we will gather from 7 – 10 PM Dec. 31st @ the Breckenridge facility (round game tables.) Bring a snack to share and your favorite game (card, board.) Did you know that Pastor & Roger love to beat their opponents at Euchre?! Join us for euchre, dominoes, golf, spoons, etc.

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS FOR EPIPHANY:

What goes up, must come down... we will gather again to take down some of the Christmas decorations for the next season of the church year: Epiphany. Breckenridge will take down greens on Fri. Jan. 3 from 5-8pm. St. Louis will take down greens on Sat. Jan. 4 from 10-noon. It's not as much fun, but could you help us with this task—maybe there'll be a treat or two to enjoy!

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

Sunday, January 12th, 2024 baptisms for any age will be offered in both services (9:30 & 11.) Please contact Pastor directly if you or someone in your family would like to be baptized, or if you would like to reaffirm your baptism (Methodists don't re-baptize, but we do reaffirm.)



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|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Marcus Posey | 18. Karen Short |
| 10. Russell Clark | 26. Michael Ruskowski |
| 12. Lyndsay Wingle | 27. Janet Greening |
| 15. Justine Ruskowski | 30. Emylie Short |
| Nancy Shankel Federspiel | |

Advice from the Health Care Team Staying Healthy Through Flu Season

1. Stay home when you are sick.
2. Stay away from people who are sick.
3. Wash your hands frequently under warm water with soap for at least 20 seconds.
4. Create a clean environment. Flu germs live on surfaces for about 8 hours. Adding 2 TBSP vinegar in 16 oz water in spray bottle will kill the Flu virus.
5. Open windows 20-30 min. a day.
6. Flu viruses cannot live in high temperatures. Set dishwasher at highest setting during winter months. Use high dryer setting for bedding.
7. Use a humidifier. Flu viruses circulate less in humid environments.
8. Bolster your immune system.. Go outside! Sun exposes us to Vitamin D which helps with immune function. Vitamins C & D, Magnesium, and Zinc help our immune systems.
9. Get a good night's sleep.
10. Drink plenty of water, exercise, maintain a well balanced diet.



Prayers for a healthy winter!



November 11th is Veterans Day. We would like to thank all the veterans in our congregation for their service. Your sacrifice is never forgotten and we are forever thankful for your dedication to our country. God Bless!



All month: Collecting family ornaments for the Fellowship Hall tree, Nativity sets to decorate the entire church.

Sunday, Nov. 3—All Saints Sunday
Family members have been invited to join us as we remember those who have gone to glory in the past year.

Wednesday, Nov. 6—United Leadership Team Meeting @ 6:30pm

Monday, Nov 11—Veterans Day

Wednesday, Nov. 13—UWiF Dorcas Circle @ 1 SLFUMC

Thursday, Nov. 14— Y.A.H.A. @ noon
Dave Briggs sharing video of their trip

Sunday, Nov. 17—UWiF Potato Bash— @ SLFUMC

Wednesday, Nov 20—UWiF CK Circle @ 9:30 SLFUMC

Sunday, Nov. 24— Thanksgiving Sunday

Sunday, November 24—Hanging of the Greens 3:00-5:00p.m. With simple supper @ 6:00p.m.

Tuesday, November 26—
4:30 Free Soup Supper @ SLFUMC
7:00pm-Breckenridge Community Service @ Wheeler Free Methodist Church

Wednesday, November 27— 6—8pm
Adult Study: On the Way to Bethlehem @ the SLF facility with simple supper (6-6:30) followed by study. All Welcome!

Thursday, Nov. 28—Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Eve Services Reminder:

Christmas Eve services:

Sunday, Dec. 24—
5:00 Pm at BUMC
7:00 PM at SLFUMC

Children & Youth will be invited to help build the manger scene as we sing and tell the story of Jesus' birth. 5



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-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

Return Service Requested


