



Methodist Message

July 2025

Pastor's Page...

The Quiet Place of Prayer

Prayer is worship. Our praying should be full of adoration, affection, and fondness for God—that God is who God is; that God created us in order to have someone on whom God could shower love; that our Triune God stretched out His arms on the cross through the sacrifice of Jesus; that God intends, in the fullest sense, to make whole persons out of us. In worship, as the old word *worth-ship* implies, we declare what we value the most. It's one of the best ways in the world to love God.

Prayer is the highest expression of our dependence on God. It's asking for what we want. We can ask for anything—even the most difficult things. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving; present your requests to God” (Philippians 4: 6). Anything large enough to occupy our minds is large enough to hang a prayer on.

Prayer, however, by its nature is *requesting*. It's not *insisting* or *clamoring*. We can make no demands of God or “deals” with God. Friends don't make demands. Friends ask and then wait. We wait with patience and submission until God gives us what we need—or something more. I always pray for God's will because it is the only perfect thing there is. I learned to pray for God's will through a difficult family time and decision where I thought I knew what would be best. I didn't because I cannot know or see into the future. Our all powerful, all present, all knowing God alone knows what's best for our futures.

Prayer is asking for understanding. It's the means by which we comprehend what God is saying to us in God's Word. Prayer focuses and unites our fragmented hearts.

Prayer can be difficult, even the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus' response is written in Matthew's Gospel (Mt. 6:9-13 CEB):

Our Father who is in heaven,
uphold the holiness of Your name.
Bring in Your kingdom
So that Your will is done as it is in heaven.
Give us the bread we need for today.
Forgive us for the ways we have wronged You,
just as we also forgive those who have wronged us.
And don't lead us into temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.

In the quiet place of prayer, God comforts, instructs, and listens to us. There we learn to love and worship the Father/Creator, Son/Savior, and Spirit/Encourager.

Faithful ones... be in prayer with me, Love in Christ, **Pastor Billie Lou**



Dear Friends,

I can't get this Christmas song out of my head:

“A packful of toys means a sackful of joys for the millions of girls and for millions of boys when Christmas Day is here...the most wonderful day of the year.”

I haven't lost my mind and we're not celebrating Christmas in July but the June UWIF business meeting is my favorite of the year. It is when we assess our finances and determine how much money we need to keep and how much we can give away. It really is a wonderful feeling and a wonderful time of the year!

Thank you, thank you congregation for supporting our efforts. The UWIF focus is on women, youth and children. With this in mind, funds were distributed to Youth For Christ, Office of Human Services, Salvation Army, Commission on Aging and Pregnancy Services. We were also able to give monies to the VFW and the American Legion for children's camp and family services.

Our total donations were \$3500.00 and we were also able to contribute \$700.00 towards a new refrigerator for the kitchen. A big thank you is extended to all who have helped make this possible!

Looking ahead:

July 16– Class of 1957 Reunion Luncheon –noon

July 27–Sandwich Supper-4:30

Blessings,

Sue Baker

Annual Conference: Unfinished-Growing Up and Into Christ

The 2025 Annual Conference of the Michigan United Methodist Church began with a rousing speech by our Bishop, David Bard. A year after disaffiliation by some churches, and an air of uncertainty, we are now about the **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** of the church. Paraphrasing Bishop Bard, he asked us to go forward to recognize the difficult and hurting world and to remain undaunted in our tasks on growing in Christ and growing Christ into the world. There is work to finish. Even though there is much in this world that is daunting and disheartening, this can seem like an impossible task. But don't be disheartened! Face these barriers with courage and new ways of thinking. There remains a space for Christ to grow. (Rev. David Bard, May 2025).

Then, the work of the conference began. Many thousands of rice meals were packed for relief. The budget was approved, and several resolutions were passed. I have a copy of the budget if anyone would like to see it as well as copies of the resolutions. It was published that St. Louis First was 100% in ministry shares! The budget reflects less being spent in all areas this coming year as Conference adjusts to its new normal. Of interest to us is a possible slight increase in ministry shares. An interesting resolution that passed is a boycott of Chevron products because of their continued support of Israel in the Middle East conflict. This was our most contentious resolution but it did, ultimately pass. For me, the best part of Annual Conference is the worship. Beautiful singing and exuberant voices! This year, I came away with a renewed faith and a charge not to be timid and scared of change.

Linda Johnson and Nancy Gee
Lay Representatives to Annual Conference



SLF and BUMC are both looking for persons interested in being a liturgist/leader on Sunday mornings. This is generally one Sunday every other month. 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.

COUNTRYSIDE YOUTH—TLC Countryside United Brethren Church

Upcoming events for July

July 13—Water works

July 20—Sundae Sunday and S'More

July 27— Nerf Capture the Flag



Alzheimer's Association

We have been invited to coffee, at the Clubhouse in Neesen's Countryside Estates, on Tuesday, July 22nd at 10 AM. Susan Evans will be speaking and answering questions about Alzheimer's and dementia.

Have you heard about the upcoming **Education wing Window Project**? The 12 single paned windows are being replaced this summer by D & L Ward (Davison, MI.) at a cost of \$13,757.00 (\$1,146.42 ea.) The windows are 68 years old (1957,) and many have large cracks in them, they are dangerous and inefficient. If you can help financially *any amount* is helpful—you don't have to buy a whole window. \$5.00 extra dollars a week would purchase almost a quarter of a window. Please mark your gift "windows" and know that you will be helping to maintain our beautiful and functional facility. Your gift needs to be above and beyond your normal giving please.

"Take me out to the Ballgame"

Loons Game Sunday, August 10 @ 1:15pm

We need 20 people to go to get the discounted ticket. We have 11 persons signed up—we need 9 more. It's "kids eat free" day. Why not consider taking a grandchild to the game. If you have a child or youth that would like to go, speak with Dave Briggs. Ticket money is due now. Rides will be available.





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



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|-----------------------|---------------|
| Alex & Alyssa Wanless | July 4, 2014 |
| Dave & Karen Stoneman | July 10, 1982 |
| Larry & Marilyn Katt | July 11, 1970 |
| Ryan & Andrea Randall | July 24, 2004 |

Congratulations and Happy Anniversary!

Music & Arts Camp

Music and Arts Camp was a huge success! The camp was attended by approximately 20 children that made some amazing art! Below are pictures of some of the masterpieces created as well as a quilt each participant received on the final day. (STLFUMC PICTURES)



Thursday, July 10— YAHA picnic in the park @ noon

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

Tuesday, July 22—Monthly Free Community Supper @ 4:30 SLFUMC

Tuesday, July 29—ULT @ 6:30 pm

Sunday, August 10— Loons game @ 1:15 pm



The Gratiot Community Personal Needs Pantry celebrated their 6th 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!



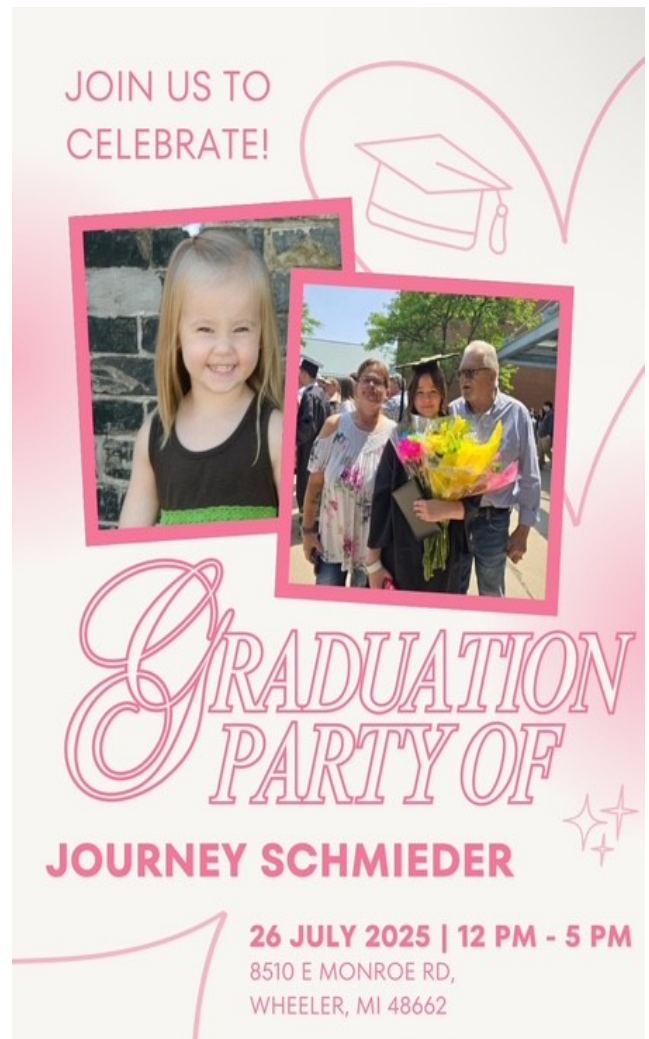
In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Roger Brown passed away from multiple organ failure on Friday, June 27th. Roger was the husband of Pastor Billie Lou and a beloved parishioner of our church. Roger was a wonderful man of God. We will miss his wonderful speaking voice, humor, sweet disposition and generosity of time, talent & treasure. Remember him by incorporating something you liked about him into your life. The family will gather at a later time to spread his ashes in his "ocean"-Lake Superior.



The Book Club meets the third Wednesday of every month at 2:00 in the lower level of

SLFUMC. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 20th. The book we are reading is **THE MANY LIVES OF MOMMA LOVE** by **Lara Love Hardin**. There will be 2 copies of the book that will be available for check out at both churches. Please join us! It will be fun.



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.

If you want to keep informed as to what is going on in the church, being on the prayer chain and congregation one call is the most reliable way to do it. Don't be left out of the chain of communication!

Nancy

SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:

Nancy—Thurs. 8 am—1 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 Third St.
Breckenridge, MI 48615
Return Service Requested**

