

# *The Methodist Message*

## AUGUST

2025



### *Pastor's Page ...*

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again. Rejoice!... The lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4: 4, 6-7)

#### *PEACE IN THE RELEASE*

Kayla's brow, furrowed as she shoved yet another slip of paper into an overstuffed box labeled "Give it to God" on all four sides. Sighing deeply, she sifted through the written prayers she had previously placed in the box. "I read them out loud almost every day," she said to her friend. "How can I be sure God hears me?" Chantel handed Kayla her Bible. "By trusting that God keeps His word," she said, "and letting go every time you write or read a prayer you've *released* into God's hands."

The apostle Paul urged believers in Jesus to "rejoice in the Lord" and gave good reason to do so by affirming, "The Lord is near." Paul encouraged God's people to trade anxious thoughts for faith-filled prayers, to believe God receives every request, and to praise God while resting in the unfathomable peace of his never-ending presence.

The Prince of Peace—Jesus—guards our emotional and mental well-being when we turn our thoughts toward qualities that point to God, things that are "true," "right," "pure," and "praiseworthy."

The peace of God (shalom) protects us when we trust that the God of peace is with us. Liberated from the burden of clinging to concerns, we can experience peace in the *release* of every prayer into God's trustworthy hands.

(Xochitl Dixon, August '25 Our Daily Bread)

Have you ever had a "prayer box"? I've had a "prayer bottle—it had small glass stones in it with words painted on each stone like: "trust," "heal," "love," "be kind," "patience," etc. I would pull out one stone each day and concentrate on the aspect of Christian faith that I would concentrate on for that day. Did it work? Not always, but most of the time, and it gave me a focus to work on each day for growth towards the person God created me and needed me to be. Many times we "*release*" our concerns to God only to pick them up again... try really letting go—"releasing" to our all-powerful God who has the answers for all our concerns. Let go—*release*—don't pick those thoughts and worries up again and let them invade your brain and heart. Find peace!

Dear God, thank You for being my peace whenever I release my worries into your Hands.

*Love in Christ, Pastor Billie Lou*



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Pastor Billie Lou's vacation plans are in flux right now... as she learns to live without Roger at her side and to take care of legalities, etc. Pastor will be back and forth between the parsonage, the houses in Chesaning (Oakley) and Copper Harbor and will be taking vacation time when the schedule permits. Please do not hesitate to call or text her on her cell—you are not "bothering" her 810-241-3160—she will return your call as soon as possible.

## NEW MINISTRY STARTING: MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES

Do you have old medicine bottles that are piling up in your home? Would you like to help the less fortunate? Then this is the ministry for you! All you have to do is bring in your **EMPTY** bottle, with the labels and sticky substance removed. Place them in the 5 gallon pail located by the coat rack. They will be mailed to Matthew 25 Ministries in Ohio to be used in third-world countries. Medicine bottles may be: prescription, over-the-counter and vitamin containers.



### Grief Support Group

## GRIEF GROUP OPPORTUNITY

The Countryside United Brethren in Christ Church and Family Center will soon be hosting a Grief Share program to help people struggling with loss. It is being led by a gentleman at Countryside, Dwight, and we would like to invite you all to share in this program. We are also looking for a couple who would be willing

to work with Dwight on training and leading the group. Dwight has been trained in this program before and is able to help the couple learn the process. Feel free to reach out to him: [dwight.rathmel@gmail.com](mailto:dwight.rathmel@gmail.com)

The Howe Memorial Library is planning an event on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 10-6pm offering needed school supplies for our Breckenridge Area school aged children.

Examples of needed items are: crayons, colored pencils, markers, erasers, dry-erase markers, pencils, sharpeners, pencil pouches, notebook paper, folders, etc.

Please contact Sunday Ostrander at the Library 989-842-3202 or [brecklib128@gmail.com](mailto:brecklib128@gmail.com) for any \$ contributions, supply donations or participation ideas for this worthy event.





Dear Friends,

While summer is often a “down time” of relaxation for many, the UWIF have been busy. We hosted the St. Louis Class of 1959 reunion dinner on July 16th. Thank you to those who made it a success: Mary Reichard, chair ; Kitchen: Peggy Mikek, Phyllis Clark, Betty Harrison, Lena Nelson, Kay Clark and Nancy Hodges. Thank you also to Judy Sparling and Bonnie Richardson for the wonderful sheet cakes. Jo Ward and Mike Reichard came in as clean up and crew and it was very much appreciated!

The summer sandwich program continues with July now complete. Thanks goes to Carrie Knause members who made it possible: Mary Reichard, Peggy Mikek, Lena Nelson, Kay Clark, Phyllis Clark, Lou Irvin, Bety Harrison, and Gladys Poindexter. Pastor Billie Lou monitored the pork for the BBQ during the day which is a big help. Jo Ward delivers meals to many of our shut in each month—thank you!

**We are not finished with summer activities:**

August 6—Class of 1960 reunion dinner, Sue Baker, chair

August 19—Sandwich supper, Dorcas Circle, chair

**Looking forward to fall:**

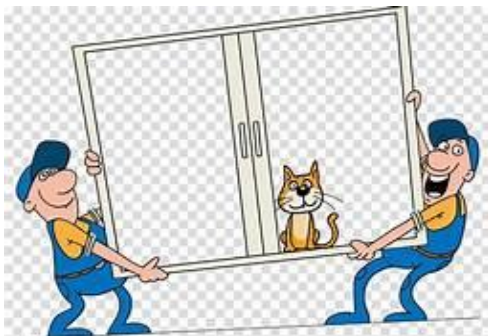
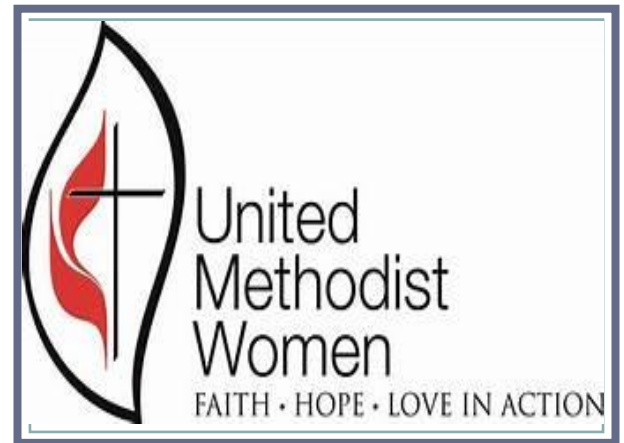
September 3—General Meeting

September 13—Memorial luncheon for James Farrough

October 4—District Meeting, Alma FUMC

As I write this it's a beautiful morning, but reports are we will get temperatures up to 95 degrees (again). So, stay cool, stay well.

Blessings,  
Sue Baker



## GOOD NEWS!!

D&W Windows are scheduled to install the new windows in the Educational Wing on Monday and Tuesday, August 4-5. The Trustees are going to meet Friday morning to remove blinds and furniture for the installers. Thanks for all the support.

*Mike Cooper*



### August Birthdays

1. Janet Palmer
9. Dale Bushre
14. Mike Cooper
17. Reese Harrison
20. Cole Stoneman
21. Griffin SanMiguel
22. Emerson Gulick



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 15, 2009 -  
Bob and Janet Edgar

August 21, 1971-  
Dave and Loretta Briggs

Aug. 28, 2020-  
Dirk & Laura Stoneman



Please consider donating items to the Breckenridge/Hemlock/Merrill/Wheeler Food Pantry.

**Personal Items:** tissue, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, hand soap, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap and dish soap.

**Food Items:** soups, canned tuna/chicken, egg noodles, pasta, saltines, cereal, H.B. helper, pudding, Jello, cake mixes, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables and canned fruits.

## IN APPRECIATION....

Roger and Pastor Billie Lou's families appreciate all the cards, kind words, hugs and memorial gifts from the church family. A "Little Lending Library" will be created at both churches on the grounds for the community's use in memory of Roger's love of reading. Please keep us in your prayers as we learn to live forward incorporating his signs of love in our lives.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Monday & Tuesday, Aug. 4 & 5— Window installation in the Educational wing

Thursday, August 14—Y.A.H.A @ Noon

Sunday, August 10—Loon's Game @ 1:05

Tuesday, Aug. 26—Free Community Supper @ SLFUMC 4:30pm

Wednesday, August 27—Book Club @ 2:00 SLFUMC

Thursday, August 28—Outreach Team meeting @ 2 pm

**NOW HIRING**  
**HELP WANTED**

SLFUMC has a job opening..Kay Clark is needing to resign from the Custodian position due to health and fami-

ly needs. If you are interested in applying, please speak with Linda Johnson. The job provides for up to 10 hours per week at \$13.00/hr.