

"A Symphony of Praise
and Service to God"



**105 E. Main
Street
Ionia, MI
48846**

Service

9:30 am

www.ioniafirst.com

**June
2018
Newsletter**



From the desk of Pastor Jonathan

"We Are Not Alone"

*...when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars,
recognized the grace that had been given to me,
they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship,
agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles. (Gal. 2:9)*

Dear Friends,

I've been out and about, and some of you might be wondering.... Where's our pastor? So I thought I'd write you a little note to tell you of my comings and goings. First let me say that I appreciate this time away, and you all have been in my prayers. The last week of May, I was in Washington, D.C., for the Festival of Homiletics. *Homi-what?* Homiletics is a fancy word for preaching, and the Festival is a gathering of pastors from a wide variety of traditions who come together to extend to one another the "right hand of fellowship" through worship, prayer, singing, dancing, weeping, speaking, and listening. The Festival draws an international group, and the speakers are world renowned scholars and pastors whose words and passion for the Gospel inspired me, filled me up, and helped me remember why I left my old life behind to take up the yoke of ordained ministry. From the times of worship, to the academic presentations, to the informal conversations over meals, this was a moment when all the spiritual energy I have been pouring out on you these past months was poured back into me. I also rested in the recognition that the work in which I am trying to be faithful is a vocation shared by thousands of other Christians around this country and around the world. It was a profound blessing to recall that I am not alone as I continue to shepherd the people of God in their lives and in Christ's ministry of reconciliation, to which every disciple is called. So let me say again: I appreciate this time away. I'm not sure I could survive the demands of full time ministry without these moments of rejuvenation.

This week, I am at the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in Michigan. It is another opportunity to observe the wideness of God's grace as UMC pastors and laity from Detroit to Marquette gather to celebrate the life of the church, to continue the work of making provision for sharing the Good News with the world, and to enjoy the reunion of friends old and new. The Annual Conference is a blessing, and I hope that we can work towards staying in touch with our denomination over the coming months. The Spirit is at work in our lives, our local church, our district, our conference, and across the world. At Annual Conference, we all remember that we are part of something bigger than ourselves, and we rejoice in what God is calling us to do together.

While I am away, know that I have not forgotten you. Each of you remains in my thoughts and prayers, and I will see you shortly. Meanwhile, keep the faith: pray without ceasing; be slow to anger and quick to love; participate in the means of grace; and teach the peace of Jesus Christ to the world around you. I love you all and miss you, and will see you in a few short days. We are not alone. We believe in God, who has created and is creating. Praise be to Christ in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

Pastor Jonathan

Traverse City

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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We have finished our classes for this year, but hope you continue to come to Worship to hear Pastor Jonathan help us understand the Lord's will for our lives through the summertime.

Parents, we studied all year the Book of Genesis. Help keep your child(ren) in the Word by talking with them about Scripture, about THEIR conversations with God and the need to repent and seek forgiveness, ask for guidance, love, strength and peace in their hearts and lives.

We will be having a congregational picnic at Bertha Brock Park on August 19th. We hope you will come join us and bring friends!!

Blessings in Christ, Jana Fedon

IONIA YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, February 18, several youth from both Ionia and Lyons-Muir Church came together and began to plan and organize for a youth ministry. We shared about ourselves, had a time of spiritual conversation, and ended with a fellowship meal. We discovered that we were all in need of this Christian community, and we were all excited, by the end of the day, about where God might lead us in mission and ministry in the greater Ionia area. For details call Pastor Jonathan at 616-443-6866.

Fellowship and Community, Recreation and Music, Spiritual Growth, Learning to Lead, Sharing Good Food

Everyone is invited, Everyone is welcome.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees need your help. We are going to clean up the church garage on June 16th from 9:00 to Noon. This needs to be done so the UMW will have room to put the items for their Trash and Treasures Sale. If you can lend a hand with this project contact Marie Church in the office, and be at the church at 9:00 a.m. on June 16th.

The following Saturday, June 23rd, from 9:00 to Noon, we will be cleaning up the storage areas in the church building. We would appreciate some volunteers to help with this as well. "Many hands make light work." Hope to see you there.

Joe Brown

Trustees Chairman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music on the Green

June 12, 7:00 p.m.	Middle School and High School Jazz Bands
June 19, 7:00 p.m.	Harmony and Three Husbands on the Loose
June 26, 7:00 p.m.	Ionia Community Band
July 10, 7:00 p.m.	Tom and Cheri Hagen with Kayla Hagen and Kensie Carrera
July 24, 7:00 p.m.	Main Street Music Talent Night
July 31, 7:00 p.m.	Local Area Praise Bands.

Come bring a chair* or blanket, connect with friends, family and neighbors and.....Enjoy the Music! Refreshments and Creative activities will be available for one and all. (**folding chairs available, if needed*)

June 9, 2:00 p.m.	Graduation Open House for Rachel Bestrom at Shadow Ridge Golf Course. All are invited.
June 24, 1:00 p.m.	Pot Luck Lunch to honor Al and Marge Irby, and wish them well as they move to Grand Rapids.
July 12 - 21	Ionia Free Fair
August 4, 9:00 a.m.	UMW Trash & Treasure Sale - You will be able to bring your items to the garage after June 16th.
August 5 - 9, 5:30 p.m.	Vacation Bible School
August 19, 1:00 p.m.	Church Picnic at Bertha Brock Park

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The SPRC had an emergency meeting on the 17th of May to discuss the situation with Brian Lyons. Please keep him in your prayers as he struggles with cancer. We of the committee have given him a six month leave of absence without pay. Evaluation will take place after the six months to see how he is doing. In the mean time, Phil Fedon will fill in for Brian, and if necessary, he will be evaluated at the end of the six month period. Wish both Brian and Phil the best.

I know there has been much discussion as to the amount of time Pastor Jonathan has been away from the pulpit. Hopefully, by mid June, he will be with us the rest of the summer. Al Irby will be preaching on June 3rd, with Elwin and Debra Hall on the 17th of June. The amount of time includes vacation, and continuing education for Jonathan.

Because we are losing two of our most beloved members of this church, we will meet for a potluck at 1:00p.m. on June 24th so that Pastor Jonathan can join us. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. We will wish Marge and Al Irby the very best.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Mission for the month of June will be Haiti Hot Lunch. The primary goal of the program is to ensure that hot nourishing food is given to school children, in order that they may thrive and improve levels of concentration and learning in school.

There are so many unemployed people unable to contribute to the cost of education for their children. There are many children who do not receive a meal a day because the family income is so low.

Not much has improved since the hurricane and earthquake.

FYI, 100% of this advance money goes to the program. This is true of any UMCOR project.

“Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for such is the kingdom of God.” Mark 10:14

Jan



Music on the Green begins Tuesday June 12th at 7:00 p.m. with the High School and Middle School Jazz Bands. June 19th we will have Harmony and Three Husbands on the Loose. June 26th is the Ionia Community Band with a patriotic theme.

Please come, bring a law chair or a blanket and lots of friends.

The UMW will be selling hotdogs, which helps support the Christmas basket mission.

There will be face painting for the youngsters (and the young at heart).

Stay tuned for July 10th, 24th and 31st.

It's Time to Get Ready for Church Camp

Wesley Woods is the closest camp to Ionia, but with the joining of the Detroit Conference and the West Michigan Conference, we now have access to Church Camps all over the lower peninsula.

Albright Camp located near Reed City, Camp Kinawind at Boyne Falls, Crystal Springs near Dowagiac, Judson Collins at Onsted, Lake Huron at Burtchville, Lake Michigan at Pentwater, Wesley Woods is near Dowling, and then the family camps at Lake Michigan, Lakeview and Myers Lake near Byron.

Our church office has a booklet showing all the camps, the activities at each camp and a calendar with the schedules for each age group.

The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You are welcome to come in and see what is available and how to register.

There are several ways to pay for camp, and our church has camp scholarships available.

Church camp changes lives in positive and loving ways. Kids get to experience something wonderful (and parents get a break).

If you would like to send a card to Becky Brown, her address is:

628 N. Jefferson

Ionia, MI 48846

**PLEASE PRAY IN THE NAME OF THE LORD
FOR:**

(E-mail prayer requests to sharron67@charter.net)

Prayers for those in the military:

Adam Cook-Green Beret, Afghanistan

Nick Murray-Aircraft Carrier, Bremerton WA

Andy Hoort-Nurse, Ret. Royal Oak, MI

Ross Marshall, Navy, Submarine, Groton, CT

**Daniel Zander-Major U.S. Army Ft. Lewis-
McChord**

Duane Baliff

Austin Campbell - Air Force

Prayers for:

Carol Newkirk

Stuart Weisgerber

Bryant Adams

Hunter Wagner

Arlene Roland

Becky Brown

Elisha & Crystal Stock

Barb Helmer

Penny Wineman

Scott Burkman

Marian Quinn Winter

Nancy & David Carle

Brian Lyons

Elizabeth Smith

Steve Lampman

David May

Evie King

Gary Hanson

Robert Zander

Katherine Asher

Jennifer Ferris

Nicole Rhodes

Mike Nelson

Jon Caswell



UMW NEWS

"Up in the morning like an old June bug!" I have no idea as to where these words originated. All I know is when I heard these words, they were like an alarm clock. Each morning, while filling his buckets with water drawn from a faucet just outside my bedroom window, Grandpa would sing these words. Then he would add, "Who stole the bacon? I stole the ham!" I don't know where those words came from either. Bid mystery! But I do remember that when I heard those words, I knew it was time to jump out of bed, quickly dress, put on a smile, and be ready for a busy day. From the time I was about 8 years old until I was 16, I spent my summers on Grandpa's truck farm, picking berries. Strawberries! Raspberries! Blackberries! Thimble berries.....whatever was in season. Singing that little ditty was Grandpa's way of saying, "Come on, Girl! Let's Go!"

And so now it is with the UMW of Ionia FUMC. We have had a little lull, taken time to relax and taken a good look at what is coming up in the next few months. In the back of our minds, there is that alert. "Up in the morning like an old June bug!" But it looks as if the summer activities on our calendar are really fun events. Of course, we realize that there is work involved but we are anticipating that the chatter, the exchange of ideas, and times of fellowship will all add up to "getting to know you better" and priceless friendship.

Put on your calendars the dates for the Music on the Green concerts. Here you have an opportunity to hob-nob with people not just from our church but from all over the community. Make sure you invite your neighbors and friends to come and enjoy the Middle School and High School Jazz Bands on June 12th, the Harmony quartette and Three Husbands on the Loose on June 19th and the Community Band on June 26th. Those are all Tuesday nights at 7:00. The UMW is planning on having hot dogs available so you don't even have to cook those nights. Just plan for a fun night out! Of course, there is more to come in July.

At our monthly UMW meeting, the first Monday of the month, June 4th, we will be doing our annual workshop, making name tags for Vacation Bible School which will be gin on Sunday, August 5th. The task is not difficult, just time consuming. We will have all the materials needed and the directions. We invite anyone who would like to help us assemble these much-needed tags to join us in Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m. Monday June 4th.

Then on June 24th we will all gather for a potluck at 1:00 o'clock to wish Al and Marge Irby our best in their time of readjustment. Do plan to come and join in a time of "happy tears" for them.

In the meantime, we are also working on the Trash and Treasure Sale. We remind you that as you do your Spring cleaning and reorganization that you set aside those items which were once treasures but now, for you, are not needed nor wanted any more, but might be something someone else just might find useful. If you could put a price on them, that would be great. We will be announcing when the trustees have the garage ready for us to use. Keep watching for the announcements regarding this event and also consider lending us a helping hand the week and/or day of the sale. We will need people to sort, price and place items the week prior and people to work on the "green" the day of. Remember, the date of the Trash and Treasures Sale is August 4th. Monies earned, as you probably remember, supports our various mission projects. Your support and assistance are much appreciated. Just remember:

"Up in the morning like and old June bug."

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness: Come before his presence with singing.
Psalms 100:1

	Attendance	Giving	Needed
May 6	58	\$4,291.00	\$2,953.00
May 13	61	\$1,327.75	\$2,953.00
May 20	47	\$3,352.67	\$2,953.00
May 27	45	\$1,855.00	\$2,953.00

A Note From Your Treasurer

Why is making a gift of financial support to your church important?

This gift is a gift of love and gratitude for all God gives you. When you give a certain portion of your income, you are following a guideline written in the Old Testament. Today's tithing tradition remains an important part of our Church life.

There is an expressed symbolization in our tithes showing commitment toward Christ and His Church. Having a regular plan helps. Do you budget your mortgage, utilities, car expenses? Through a committed gift we offer ourselves in service and devotion. We become stronger in faith, more aware of others' needs and we experience all this together!!

Reliable funding allows the Church to plan for expenses, carry out Outreach to help those in need in our Church and community. I hope you will give with a loving, generous heart. God will reward you with joy and fulfillment!

As we enter a time of outdoor fun and the relaxation of summertime, please keep your Church in your heart, and support us as routinely as you can.

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."1 Peter 4:10

Respectfully,

Jana Fedon, Treasurer First UMC

June BIRTHDAYS

3 Ken Felice
4 Bill Carr
4 Riley Mercer
8 Maybelle Drake
9 Alison Manciu
13 Shane Fulcher
14 Frank Schumacher
14 Fred Schumacher
18 Jack Bartholomew
23 Marilyn Nash
24 Carley Fulcher



June Anniversaries

5 Jack & Millie Bartholomew
12 John & Janice Fate
15 Stuart & Marie Church
19 Christopher & Carrie Felice
21 Jack & Sue Manciu
27 Glenn & Mariel Joy
30 Miller & Deana Hotchkin

June

Greeters

June 3 Marge Bowne
June 10 June Faulkner
June 17 Jackie Christiansen
June 24 Lucille Leslie

Note: If you have agreed to serve as a greeter on a Sunday morning, but find that you cannot do so, please call Peg (527-2433) or the church office (527-1860).

June

Nursery

June 3
June 10
June 17
June 24

We can always use more people to help in the nursery. If you would like to volunteer, please call Marie Church (616-755-3207) or the church office (527-1860).

June 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Mission Haiti Hot Lunch					1 Annual Confer- ence	2
3 Communion	4 1:30 pm UMW 6:00 Soup Kitch- en 6:30 Investment Comm.	5 9:30 am Friend- ship Committee	6 8:30 am Morn- ing Prayer	7 8:00 am Quilters	8	9
10 Noisy Offering 10:45 a.m. Adult class 3:30 pm Youth Group	11 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen 7:00 pm Trustees	12 7:00 pm Music on the Green Jazz Bands	13 8:30 am Morn- ing Prayer Pastor's Vaca- tion	14 8:00 am Quilters	15	16 9-noon Trustees Garage Clean-up
17 Father's Day Mission Sunday	18 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen 7:00 pm Ad Board	19 7:00 pm Music on the Green	20 8:30 am Morn- ing Prayer	21 8:00 am Quilters	22	23 9-noon Trustees Church storage areas Clean-up
24 3:30 pm Youth Group 1:00 pm Potluck for Marge and Al Irby	25 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen Newsletter Dead- line	26 7:00 pm Music on the Green	27 8:30 am Morn- ing Prayer	28 8:00 am Quilters	29	30



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Service 9:30am

Check it out!

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