

"A Symphony of Praise  
and Service to God"



**105 E. Main  
Street**

**Ionia, MI  
48846**

**Service**

**9:30 am**

**www.ioniafirst.  
com**

**June  
2017**

**Newsletter**



# From the desk of Pastor Jon

## Fair Winds and Following Seas

In Mark 4, we read the story of Jesus calming the storm. He'd been napping at the back of the boat on a cushion, (it had been a long day of preaching for him so I can relate) and the disciples woke him up to let him know the boat was filling up with water. He tells the winds and the waves to calm down and then asks the disciples why they were afraid. The text doesn't say this, but I like to think that he went back to sleep at that point.

Sometimes our lives get pretty stormy. The boats that are our lives start getting bounced around by the waves. The winds are high and it's hard to control the sails. We try to keep our hand on the tiller, but sometimes it's too much. We might be people of prayer every day, but at this point, we start to pray in earnest. Our cries to God are urgent.

Today, my prayer for Ionia First UMC and Lyons-Muir Church is urgent. There have been challenges in both places. Sometimes, the waves have seemed high and hope has been lost. And yet, we serve the God who calms the storms.

As for the Van Dops, we've had a few storms too. But, God has also answered a lot of prayers. Even so, sometimes it's easier to look at the waves and panic than it is to look at Jesus. Sometimes it's easier to embrace the chaos that stands ready to blow up in our face than it is to be still and know that He is God. We're growing into God's grace on that point.

We hope that you will hold us in prayer during this time of transition. We're still not sure what things will look like in the end. That's one of those chaos points. We're moving into the unknown. But, we're also at peace with that (mostly). So, keep us in prayer that my ministry will unfold the way that God wants it to, and that our family will continue to grow in faith.

Jesus calms the storms. It's with this in mind that our prayer for you is the departing blessing of many a sea-goer. May you have fair winds and following seas. May your storms be calmed and your voyage one of peace. But even when it is not, trust in the one who calms the storms.

Grace & Peace to you,

Jon, Darcie & Nic

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*A publication of*  
**First United Methodist  
Church**

**105 E Main  
Ionia, MI 48846**

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## UMW Board & Cassie Stewart News

Recently I read "Prayer is the pulse of life." For some reason, these words kept running through my mind. I pondered them. A nurse takes your pulse to check your heart beat. Then I recalled that in music, we often use the word "beat" instead of "pulse". Are they the same? Then, the word "rhythm" came to mind. I came to the conclusion that "beat" and "pulse" were the accent and that "rhythm" resulted and was more closely related to the flow of the words and thus the melody. Then today I read these words. "There is a rhythm to life just as there is to the sea. When high waves of trouble threaten to submerge us, we have learned to ride them out patiently with prayer and trust that God will provide help and answers. And He does."

Like in the song, "The Beat Goes On", the First United Methodist Women go on. As I said in last month's letter, to assist the Vacation Bible School Committee is our next project. Remember that the UMW Board will again meet with the Cassie Stewart Circle on the second Monday of the month of June in Fellowship Hall at 1:30 pm to do whatever we can to help with preparations for the event. We will gladly welcome anyone who would like to be a part of the endeavor. Then in June and July, we will be supporting the Summer Music Series, Music on the Green. So come and join us as the "Beat Goes On". The more the merrier!

## Staff Parish Relations Committee

The Staff Parish Relations Committee was very busy this winter interviewing Jonathan Bratt-Carle to become our new Pastor. Several phone calls occurred between Jan Powell and Bill Hanchett. Because Jan was in Mississippi during this time, Al MacDonald and Al Irby represented her in the joint meeting with the Ionia Committee and Lyons-Muir Committee. The entire interview took place via phone. Since that time, other conversations with Jonathan have taken place giving him a sense of Ionia First and Lyons/Muir. A charge conference took place on May 24th to verify his employment. Much prayer went into this process, and we feel blessed to have Jonathan come to us.

The Committee had just determined a new pastor when our loyal custodian Pat found a full-time job. Thanks to Ruth French and some quick work by Marie, Brian Lyons was hired. Greet him when you see him. The Committee is so pleased with his work.

We sincerely hope that our Jon and his family will be happy with their new placement in Texas. They are in our prayers. Jon has served us well.

Lastly, I would like to thank the SPRC for their hard work. They are Wendy Haight, Phil Kahl, Virginia Carter, and Marge Bowne.

May our church be a sacred dwelling to all who come here,  
May those who visit feel the peace we have received from you,  
May darkness not enter.  
May the light of God shield this church from harm.  
May the angels bring their peace here and use our church as a haven of light.  
May all grow strong in our place of healing, keep our sanctuary from the loudness of the world.  
Bless us, Lord, as we experience the change that is coming.

Blessings to all.  
Jan

## OPPORTUNITIES

### UMW BOARD

The UMW Board has openings for several new members. Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30p.m. No particular talents are essential. Input of new ideas and incentives are needed for traditional and new events.

### CASSIE STEWART CIRCLE

To volunteer to participate in Hands on Mission Projects, plan to join the Cassie Stewart Circle which meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Attendance at each meeting is not a requirement. Just come and assist whenever convenient. We promise a great fellowship, a time to share and get acquainted in addition to participating in a mission project. Activities vary each month.

### BRUNCH POTLUCKS

On April 23rd we started what we hope will be a new tradition. There will be a potluck brunch at 10:30 following our church service. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. This will be a once a month meal, and beginning in May, it will take place on the 3rd Sunday.

### NURSERY

We are in need of ladies to help in the nursery on Sunday mornings at 9:30. The more volunteers we have, the less often you will be asked to help. Contact Marie in the church office (527-1860)

### ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Several positions are open on this board which meets the 2nd Monday of every other month at 7:00 p.m. For details as to qualifications, please make an appointment with Pastor Jon by calling the office (527-1860).

### CHURCH GARDENS

If anyone would like to bring flowers and plant them around the church AND take care of them, you are welcome to do so. We will not be ordering geraniums this year.

### St. Joseph, MO Mission

I have found a mission for prescription bottles in St. Joseph, MO. There is a large public clinic that is accepting used prescription bottles.

### DO YOU LIKE GARDENING?

Judy Roseboom has been taking care of our church gardens and picking up around the property for a long time. She would like to have someone who could help with these projects. If you would be interested, please call the church office at 527-1860.

## Join us for Brunch June 18th at 10:30 In Fellowship Hall

Our Potluck Brunches will be the third Sunday of every month. If you are wondering what to bring that doesn't have to be kept warm, here are a few suggestions.

Fruit, juice, salads, deviled eggs, sandwiches, donuts, cinnamon rolls, rolls and butter.

This is a great time for getting to know each other better, and perhaps developing ideas to help make our church family stronger.

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## New Pictorial Directory

We are putting together a new pictorial directory, and need to have it finished by July 1 when our new pastor arrives. This will help him match names to faces. Mark Workman will be taking the pictures. WE NEED EVERYONE TO BE INVOLVED with this so that our directory can be updated with all of our current information (addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc.)

Please don't wait until the last minute. This is something that takes time to assemble.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.



Some of our members are working hard with the Music on the Green Committee. This year we'll bring some wonderful talent to the Green for your entertainment. Make plans to attend on Tuesday evenings June 13, 20, 27, July 11, 25 and August 1st.

### Answers to May Fun Page

1. - c

4. - b

7. - d

10. - l

2. - g

5. - i

8. - h

11. - f



During the Celebration of Creativity worship weekend in May, the Community Prayer Tree initiative was launched. This endeavor is growing and developing organically through the leadership of Amy Buckingham.

**Purpose:** Ionia First UMC working in our community to create a deeper experience and a beautiful way to connect with others via the practice of "Prayer".

*The tradition of creating a prayer tree -- was noted in Sandra Ingerman's book "How to Thrive in Changing Times" -- comes out of Siberia.*

*When we can experience our gratefulness for life we transform our perspective about what is happening in our own lives, our church, our community, our state, our country, and around the world. When we feel grateful, we can experience the beauty instead of the pain. We want to acknowledge those who are suffering and feel compassion. At the same time it's important to experience the beauty and the gifts that life brings us. This comes from ancient teaching that has been passed down through many cultures and many generations.*

*Let us together hold a positive vision for our community. Let us embrace ourselves, our loved ones and all of life with love. Love heals!*

The Community Prayer Tree has been introduced to the audiences during the "Music & Art on the Green" events in June. Your participation is welcomed and we trust that you will encourage friends and strangers in our community to visit this place. . .and take the opportunity to add their prayer to the tree.

### Thank you to our Sunday School Teachers

Jana Fedon, Amber Campbell and Eric Asher. We truly appreciate what you do for our children.

Maybelle Drake would love to hear from us.

201 Allred Rd.

Apt. 501

Byron, GA 31008

Phone: (478)654-6899

Email: maybelle.drake@yahoo.com

### 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**

**Phyllis Whitelock**

**Steve Lampman**

**Julie Englehart**

**Don Fell**

**Elisha & Crystal Stock**

**Robert Zander**

**Marge Irby**

**Bryant Adams**

**Doris Simpson**

**Elizabeth Smith-**

**Ron Beach**

**Jimmy Griffith**

**Gladys Stout**

**Mark Workman**

**Mary Cusack**

**Barb Helmer**

**Joy Hood**

	Attendance	Giving	Needed
April 30	54	\$4,783.00	\$3,000
May 7	50	\$2,941.00	\$3,000
May 14	56	\$997.00	\$3,000
May 21	62	\$476.00	\$3,000
May 28	46	Not available at this time	\$3,000
Lenten Sacrificial Giving		\$6,485.00 from 11 donors	



## Ionia's Summer Music Series

On the Lawn of the First United Methodist Church

**June 13<sup>th</sup>**

Jazz Bands – Ionia High School & Ionia Middle School

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Tom and Sherry Hagen & Kayla Hagen and Kenzie Carrera

**June 27<sup>th</sup>**

Ionia Community Band with Andy MacFarland

**July 11<sup>th</sup>**

Three Husbands on the Loose and  
SoZos' Mindy Hensley & Daughters

**July 25<sup>th</sup>**

Local Area Praise Bands Featuring

Assembly of God, Lyons-Muir, Outreach Church, Shiloh Community Church

The Well & Zion UMC

**August 1<sup>st</sup>**

An evening of Inspirational Music with Harmony  
(*Sue Manciu, Mindy Talbot, Steve Hodgkins, Warren Wentworth*) and  
Adam Green, Joel Kilgore, Billy Ray

## BIRTHDAYS

### June

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



### *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 & Deanna Hotchkin*

### June

#### Greeters

- June 4 Miller and Deanna Hotchkin
- June 11 Joyce Slomski
- June 18 Al and Joan MacDonald
- June 25 Jackie Christiansen

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 4 Marie Church
- June 11
- June 18 Melissa Wagner
- June 25

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).



# Fun Page

## Fathers of the Bible

Match the description to the name of each father.

- |              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 1. Kenan     | a. Father of Noah      |
| 2. Jared     | b. Father of Esau      |
| 3. Lamech    | c. Father of David     |
| 4. Cush      | d. Father of Lot       |
| 5. Haran     | e. Father of Mahalalel |
| 6. Terah     | f. Father of Laban     |
| 7. Isaac     | g. Father of Samson    |
| 8. Nahor     | h. Father of Enoch     |
| 9. Amminadab | i. Father of Jonathan  |
| 10. Jesse    | j. Father of Havilah   |
| 11. Manoah   | k. Father of Abram     |
| 12. Saul     | l. Father of Nahshon   |



# June 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Mission: Haiti Hot Lunch</b>				1 Annual Conference	2	3
4 Pentecost	5 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen 7:00 pm Trustees	6 9:30 am Friendship Committee  Pastor Jon gone to Texas	7	8	9	10
11 <b>Communion</b>	12 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen	13 7:00 pm Music on the Green  Middle/High School Jazz Bands	14	15	16	17
18 Mission Sunday  10:30am Potluck Brunch	19 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen	20 7:00 pm Music on the Green  The Hagens with Kayla  & Kenzie Carrera	21	22	23	24
25	26 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen  7:00 VBS meeting Newsletter Deadline	27 7:00 pm Music on the Green  Community Band	28	29	30	



**105 E. Main Street  
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**Service 9:30am**

**Check it out!**

**[www.ioniafirst.com](http://www.ioniafirst.com)**

*Happy  
Father's  
Day*







