



"A Symphony of Praise
and Service to God"



**March/April
2014
Newsletter**

A publication of
**First United Methodist
Church**
105 E Main
Ionia, MI 48846
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Worship
Traditional service 9:30 am
Contemporary service 11am

Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
9-12:30

The Van Dops are coming to you from Rosebush, Michigan, where we are finishing up our first appointment. I (Pastor Jon) will have been there for six years when we leave at the end of June. It has been a good appointment with many things having been learned, many mouths fed, and many souls touched. We are leaving good friends behind. Yet, we are looking forward to making many new friends.

For this article, I've been asked to introduce myself. To that end, here are a few thoughts...

I grew up in Muskegon, MI and developed a love for the water there. I went to school to be a paramedic for a while and subsequently joined the U.S. Coast Guard. After an enlistment, I went back to school (Grand Valley) and then worked for a year at Wedgewood Christian Services as a third shift youth worker. I then went to seminary at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio for three years. Then, with a fresh M.Div in hand, I began pastoring at Rosebush.

About four months after starting in Rosebush, I was set up on a blind date with a beautiful young woman named Darcie. She and I dated for about four months before I popped the question. Four months after that I got to watch her walk down the aisle in a white dress. When you find the right one, don't mess around.

We enjoyed a few years as DINKs (Dual Income, No Kids) and then welcomed our son, Nicholas to the party in July 2013. Now, apart from being dramatically sleep deprived, we are happy to be a family of three. We're learning the art of parenting and all the choices that goes with that.

There are quite a few more stories to tell and we are looking forward to telling them. We are also looking forward to hearing your stories and getting to know you. In the meantime, my prayer is that I will be able to finish well at Rosebush and that you will continue doing excellent ministry in Ionia with Pastor Larry and Bev. May God bless you and we'll be seeing you soon.



Peace – Pastor Jon

Bible Ventures-We are looking forward to the Easter season and all the Easter activities for our children. Palm Sunday will see the kids parading around the sanctuary with their palms. The kids have been asked to be part of the Easter play on April 20. They will be dressing up in colorful costumes from other countries and having lines to say. Then, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the side yard (weather permitting) or inside.



So, continue to join the fun at Bible Ventures each Sunday morning at 9:30.

An Update from the Ceballos Family

Greetings from the province of Córdoba, Argentina. 🇲🇩 (410 miles from our home) We arrived on 16th. January and the weather greeted with a week of tremendous heat. To 120,2 degrees wind chill!. With LETRA Argentina (Latin America in Translation and Literacy), LETRA Paraguay, LETRA Chile and LETRA Uruguay, we were involved from 18th-24th Jan in the missionary conference CIMA. The organization did a great emphasis on translation ministry and we gave out a lot about our vision.

Directors of LETRA Argentina, Rodolfo and Beatrice, spoke about Bible translation throughout the conference. Was very exciting to hear from their lips what it meant to their village to know about God. The Nadeb is an Amazon tribe in Brazil where Rodolfo and Beatrice translated the New Testament. Eduardo is the Chief of the tribe and his sister Socorro is now translating the Old Testament into the language of Nadeb. We knew them by the words of our directors and images in photos and videos, but meeting them in person was incredibly special. They looked at me surprised and astonished to see me talking (Marcelino) loudly, with gestures. We were invited by Edward to visit their village and they told me to get along with them because they speak loud and are cheerful! Some observations Eduardo made about Argentines was: - "You eat many times a day, and also use much the car because you have not any canoeing rivers.

Since the last week of January we are in a place called WHITE FIELDS. It is a place where the people could take a cultural missionary training seminar for pastors and now the Fundamental Action by LETRA Argentina occurs. This training is on Linguistics, phonetics and learning a 2nd language and do 1st step as those who want to serve in Bible translation and literacy. A total of 24 students from different parts of Argentina and 4 countries were doing that training. We're learning a lot, while we were discovering how God opens doors in inaccessible places from a literacy project!

Francisco and Martin are really enjoying the experience. Francisco attends the Kiosk and Martin works in the kitchen, where he learned to cut up chickens and several new sounds using other languages in the world! Also they have seen a family of Cordoba and they have enjoyed uncles and cousins they did not know!!

We were going back to Mendoza the first days of March. We will have new challenges to get there ... we will tell you later.

Thanks for praying ... and keep walking together!
Eliana, Marcelino, Martin and Francisco

(See pictures on page 7)

Community Youth Vision Newsletter

Greetings

Happy March!! We have a lot of events coming up in the next couple of months including our trip to Chicago in April. We are on our way, but funds are still short. Nevertheless, there is no threat, we have a very special fundraiser event coming at the end of March and the youth will present our very first Variety Show.

The kids have been working hard to put together their acts to show off in front of friends, family, and church family. We invite everyone to come and watch our talented group!

I cannot believe that April is right around the corner and we will be leaving for Dare 2 Share soon but it is not too late to sign up and go with us. If you are a high school or middle school student or a parent of a high school or middle school student and are interested in finding out more information about Dare 2 Share please give Andria, Kayla or Kelly a call. We would be more than welcome to share with you what this trip means to us and how it can help grow the students spiritually .

Blessings to you all and stay warm.

Your CYV team

CHECK OUT: dare2share.org

Upcoming Events

Y.C.O.R.E. (youth group) takes place every Sunday from 2 to 4 at First United Methodist Church in Ionia

Homework Club takes place every Wednesday from 3 to 5 at First United Methodist Church in Ionia

March Special Events

8th Movie Night 7pm to 930pm 1st Christian of Muir

22nd Pop Can Drive 11am to 3pm 1st UMC Ionia

22nd Chrysalis Rush Leave by 4pm St.Johns

Arrive back 8pm

23rd Variety Show Fundraiser 4pm

April Special Events

11th-12th DARE 2 SHARE Look for Flyer

18th Passion of Christ Movie 7pm @ 1st UMC Ionia

19th Fun Night 5pm to 9pm 1st Christian of Muir

Contact Information

Andria Hunt 616-902-3589

Kayla Epps 616-902-9763

Kelly DeWeese 616-902-0537

Or Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Community-Youth-Vision/115551391805477>

CASSIE STEWART NEWS

“Ubuntu” This word became famous through the writings of South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, known for his leadership role in the nonviolent struggle for justice and later for his ministry of reconciliation. According to the philosophy a person cannot live in isolation from the rest of humanity but is part of a larger community. **Ubuntu says “I am because we are.”** Embracing Ubuntu is creating genuine relationships with others that in turn help to create a better world. In the Bible Ubuntu occurs in the story of Ruth, the story of the woman at the well and in the story of the good Samaritan. Each story tells of a mission of hospitality and service, the components of our Christian faith, the purpose of the United Methodist Women, and the Ubuntu philosophy.

We’ve learned about Roma and the efforts to improve living conditions for these people. We are continuing to feed into the Haiti jewelry- making project by assisting Joan MacDonald in collecting and preparing the cereal boxes for shipping. We’ve contributed to the SMILE program and hopefully brought joy to a few children through our contribution of the Smile Dolls.

This month we are turning our thoughts to our own church. Because of the current existing situation, we are going to donate time to “spring cleaning” and sprucing up of our nursery and perhaps other locations in need of TLC. On Monday, March 10th, we invite anyone who wishes to assist to meet with us at 1:30 p.m. We promise, even though physically working, the fellowship will be wonderful. As a bonus there will be cookies and tea.

In April we are again going to be concentrating on our annual Health Kit donation sent to areas around the world. We will be having a contribution center in the narthex for the collection of needed items. Information will also be posted on the downstairs bulletin board. The collection from this project will begin about the third week of March and at our April meeting we will be packing the kits for shipment. Your donations and assistance are greatly appreciated.

Remember, you are all Methodist Women and you are all welcome to the Cassie Stewart Circle meetings which are scheduled the second Monday of the each month at 1:30 pm. Just call Peg to let her know you are coming.

United
Methodist



Women

UMW NEWS

Spring is only a few days away...we hope! And of course, I am thinking of spring cleaning. Oh, I know it is early but as we do start this annual project, remember this is the year of the Trash and Treasure Sale. I know some have already a cache started.

Just save your trash for our big August event. Your trash maybe someone else’s treasure. We take about everything except shoes and clothing. Of course, we will also need volunteer help. I’ll have more details in the next two newsletters. Also watch the bulletin board for updates.

Please note the special invitation for the Lenten Potlucks included in this letter. Do mark the dates and plan to attend. Just bring a dish to pass and your own service. Again Al Irby has arranged for an interesting series of short programs following dinner. We won’t “dilly-dally” long because choir practice is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Then, we are also planning our Lenten Breakfast. This is a very special Saturday morning, the day before Palm Sunday, April 12th. We regret to tell you that although she has made a remarkable recovery, Sally Wilcox is physically not able to be with us. She asked to be put on hold for another year. However, we are delighted to tell you that Pat Zander, one of our own and a favorite presenter of book reviews for the Cassie Stewart Circle, will be our speaker and will be sharing some inspirational and motivational thoughts with us. Ken and Ann will be serving our breakfast and will need to know if you are coming. So be sure to sign the sign-up sheet on the UMW bulletin board prior to April 7th.

Just a reminder! Every Wednesday at noon during Lent at the First Christian Church, a soup luncheon is served, a short devotional is presented, and you are invited to attend and enjoy the fellowship.

Again let me remind you to be saving your soup labels and pop-can tabs. Do check the bulletin board also for a list of items needed by RAVE. Yes, we will still collect empty ink cartridges. These items which we collect all are sources of revenue for various organizations including our own Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids. It cost us nothing to make these contributions but the collection of these items is all for worthy causes.

GREETERS

Please greet at the parking lot door from 9:15am to 9:35am and then again from 10:45am to 11:00am before the second service. In case something happens that prevents you from greeting, please call the church office 527-1860.

March 2 -Pat Arnold	April 6 - Avis White
March 9 -Al and Marge Irby	April 13 - Jodi Hagan
March 16-Jan Powell	April 20- Don and Peg Fell
March 23-Rick & Wanda Buys	April 27 - Rick & Wanda Buys
March 30-David & Roxanne Stiles	



CHURCH CALENDAR

*Monthly/Weekly: The 1st Sunday of each month is always Communion Sunday.
Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 9am.

Youth Group meets every Sunday, 2pm, homework club every Wednesday 3-5pm

March

- 4 Friendship Group, 9:30am
- 4 UMW, 1:30pm
- 5 Ash Wednesday, Lenten Potluck 6pm
- 5 Start of Easter Choir 7pm
- 10 Cassie Stewart, 1:30pm
- 10 Ad Board, 7pm
- 11 Music on the Green-SMAT Students
- 12 Lenten Potluck, 6pm
- 12 Choir, 7pm
- 18 Music on the Green-Cool Blues
- 19 Lenten Potluck, 6pm
- 19 Choir, 7pm
- 23 CYV Talent Show, 4pm
- 25 Music on the Green-Swing Night
- 26 Lenten Potluck, 6pm
- 26 Choir, 7pm
- 31 Missions Committee, 7pm

April

- 1 Friendship, 9:30pm
- 1 UMW, 1:30pm
- 2 Lenten Potluck, 6pm
- 2 Choir, 7pm
- 9 Lenten Potluck, 6pm
- 9 No choir, spring break
- 14 Cassie Stewart, 1:30pm
- 16 Lenten Potluck, 6pm
- 16 Choir, 7pm
- 18 CYV Movie Night, 7pm "The Passion"
- 18 At A Boy Concert, 7pm, here
- 25-26 Women's Retreat, Wesley Woods



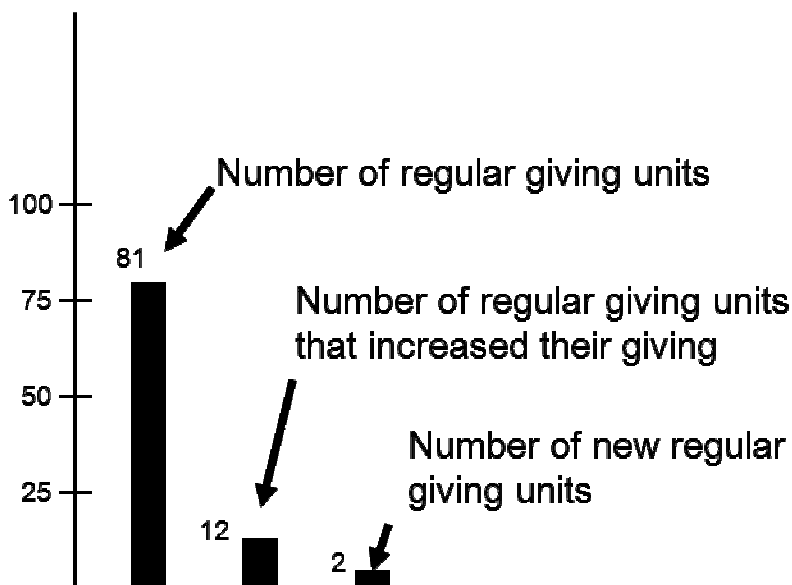
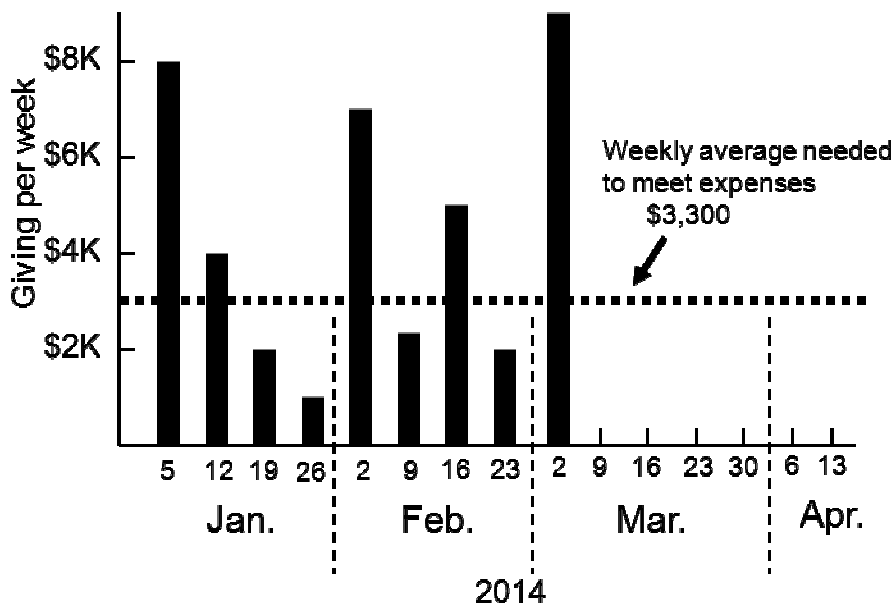
Wednesdays @ Noon
First Christian Church

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Yes! We were on track for February. As I reported to you during worship a few weeks ago, our church's finances were in trouble. A number of you gave extra and others increased their week to week giving allowing us to do some catching up. I will keep you informed of our progress.

If we will continue at this pace, we will be able to restore some of the temporary cuts we had to make. God bless us as we are faithful even as our heavenly Father is faithful. –Al Irby

Operation: Back on Track





Recycling Depot

What do we collect?

- ◆ Pop can tabs for the Methodist Community House
- ◆ Box tops and soup labels for education
- ◆ Requested items for RAVE
- ◆ Computer Ink Cartridges for missions
- ◆ Cereal boxes for Haiti
- ◆ Clothing, bedding, towels, etc. for



MISSION OF THE WINTER:

MISSION IONIA

So far this year we have helped 4 families with heating bills! We expect more requests.



4 Things NOT to say to your Pastor:

1. I wish I had a job like yours, where I would work only one day a week.
2. What do you do with all the free time you have?
3. Can I have a couple of minutes before you preach?
4. I love you pastor, but _____ (fill in the blank).

Thanks to everyone for all of the prayers, cards, good food and good wishes for a speedy recovery.

I hope so too!

Can't wait to be able to walk again! -Gene Clark



BIRTHDAYS

March

- 4 Dick Christiansen
- 6 Pat Arnold
- 6 Mayeileen Bartosh
- 7 Kendra Badder
- 8 Deanna Hotchkin
- 9 Karson Hagen
- 10 Marge Bowne
- 12 Gwen Kuieck
- 13 Billie Horwood
- 14 Nancy Haight
- 14 Kim Paton
- 16 Charley Frost
- 20 Steven Manciu

April

- 4 Mary Hausserman
- 5 Isaiah Manning
- 11 Henry Castle
- 17 Sue Curtis
- 17 Ruth French
- 20 Wayne Lowry
- 21 Savanna Curtis
- 23 Larry Brown
- 25 Stuart Church
- 26 Diana Whitelock
- 30 Ava England



ANNIVERSARIES

March

29 Al and Marge Irby

April

2 Jerry and Judy Gregory

Please submit birthday and anniversary dates to Mindy in the office if we do not already have them!



**PLEASE PRAY IN THE NAME OF THE LORD FOR:
(E-mail prayer requests to sharron67@charter.net)**



Quinn Batista	Addictions	
Bobbi Humbracht	Clyde Francisco	Jim Martin
Ceballos Family	James Jarosch	Mark Workman
Carol Bookie	Tracey Lhamon	Polly Buckingham
Clyde Stout	John Clark	Carol Newkirk
Colleen Thompson	Nancy Rowan	Steve Lampman
Lauri Zimmerman	Ron Hotchkiss	Pat Arnold
Jason Hotchkin	Jim Edlin Sr.	Lucy Dickinson
Susan Heft	David Ruehs	Yvonne Hathaway

Prayers for those in the military:

Adam Cook-Green Beret, Afghanistan

Nick Murray-Helicopter pilot, Key West

Andy Hoort-Nurse, Walter Reed

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

Duane Baliff

2014 Leadership Directory

Administrative Council

Janet Winter (Chair)
 Pastor Larry Brown
 Jan Powell
 Al Irby
 Al MacDonald
 Peg Fell
 Gladys Stout
 Jodi Hagen
 Bev Brown
 Jerry Winter
 Larry Ransom
 June Faulkner
 Ted Paton
 Joan MacDonald

Finance

Larry Brown (Co-Chair)
 Al Irby (Co-Chair)
 Mindy Talbot
 Ric Buys
 Ethel Clark
 Al MacDonald

Investment Fund

Committee

Jerry Winter (Chair)
 Janet Winter
 Bill Carr
 Avis White
 Marge Irby
 Ruth French
 Mindy Talbot

Trustees

Jack Hausserman
 Ken Felice
 Kimarie Fish
 Stuart Church
 John Fate
 Jerry Winter
 James Wagner
 Miller Hotchkin

Staff/Parish

Relations

Roxanne Stiles
 Ted Paton
 Nancy Haight
 Wanda Buys
 Kiplynn Moore



105 E. Main Street
Ionia, MI 48846

Traditional Service 9:30am
Contemporary Service 11am

Check it out!

www.ioniafirst.com

Ionia Music on the Green

And

MAIN STREET MUSIC

Present

*At Main Street Music
Downtown
Ionia*

Think Spring Series



Tuesday Evenings at 7 pm

FREE

March 11: SMAT Jam-Students from the School of Missionary Aviation

March 18: Cool Blues-Our best IHS Jazz Musicians

March 25: Swing Night-Music from the 30's, 40's, 50's

Bring your own lawnchair or blanket

