

"A Symphony of Praise  
and Service to God"



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

**Service  
9:30 am**

**www.ioniafirst.  
com**

**November  
2016  
Newsletter**



# From the desk of Pastor Jon

## The Rhythm of the Spirit

I recently saw a bumper sticker that read, "Like most musicians, you're following a drummer." In music, the beat is the underlying rhythm that determines the character of the music. A song is a song, but the rhythm will define how it is played and, ultimately, how it is perceived.

Case in point: I will never forget the day I was practicing the piano as a boy and someone came up to me and asked, "Who died?" I looked confused and the person explained, "You're playing this happy song like you're at a funeral. Put some life in it!" My tempo was slow and so it gave the song a character that wasn't normally associated with that song.

Likewise, I sometimes see people driving in aggressive ways that have the Christian fish (Ichthus) as a bumper sticker. Other times, I'll hear people who supposedly have the joy of the Lord in their heart speaking venomously toward people with whom they have simple disagreements. It makes me wonder what beat they are following with their lives.

Ephesians 5:18b-20 says, "Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

We might make a bumper sticker that says, "Like most Christians, you're following someone filled with the Holy Spirit." We could pray every morning to be filled with the light and love of Christ. We could find our hope in the salvation that God gives us and be reminded that all the petty annoyances of our lives are subject to the One who made us. We could... We might... But, will we?

This month, as we approach our national day of Thanksgiving, may it be that you and I are filled with the Spirit so that each day is a day of gratitude. May each day be a day of joy. May each day be one in which we pray for those who challenge us. May each day be a day we find solace in our Savior and delight in God's word.

And may it be that each day, it is obvious we are undergirded by the grace of God in such a way that no one can mistake it for anything else.

Peace,

Pastor Jon

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## UMW and CASSIE STEWART CIRCLE NEWS

Without volunteers, we could not accomplish all the various mission projects that we do. It is with your assistance that we accomplish our goals. There is no other way we could do all that we do. We are aware that when the budget is down that there seems to be more work than workers to do it. That's when you as a volunteer can be very effective. You are not financially paid, but we pray that you actually want to help, and that you are rewarded with enjoyment and friendship. Because of your sacrifice of time, energy and sometimes even money contributed to the success of whatever project for which you are volunteering, you are loved, valued and appreciated. At this time of year, with our thoughts focused on "thanksgiving," we thank you for all that you do. **Thank you, thank you, thank you for all that all of you do.**

Our most current project to complete is that of filling the shoe boxes for the **Samaritan's Purse**. All available informational materials, shoe boxes, and ideas are on display in the Narthex. Please be sure to label your box as to the gender and age it is intended. Just remember, you are making a very big impression on some needy child somewhere. The deadline for collection is November 14 when the **Cassie Stewart Circle** will compile all donations and delivery to Shiloh for shipping will be made. If you have questions, call Peg.

Our next fun event is the hosting of the **Harvest Bazaar** on Saturday, November 12th from 9 am to 2 pm in Fellowship Hall. The Quilters are standing by to assist Gladys in any way needed. All kinds of crafts, candy, and baked or canned goods are requested. There will be donuts and coffee for brunch, and beef sandwiches, chips and pie for lunch. Please check the sign-up sheet on the upstairs bulletin board for donations of food and time. If you know of anyone who would like to be a vendor, please contact Peg.

On December 1, we will celebrate our **Festival of Tables**. We have openings for a couple more hostesses. Plans for the event are rapidly being finalized.

The day following Thanksgiving, November 25th, the **Christmas Tree with all the requests** of our 8-cap families and others will be erected. It is then that you may choose a recipient and then return your gift(s) by Monday, December 12th. December 13th through the 16th we will be sorting, and packing the **Christmas Boxes** which will be delivered the morning of Saturday, December 17th. In December, we will post a sign-up sheet for Super Shoppers. Also in December, there will be a spot designated for the collection of non-perishable foods (canned or boxed).

Now, one more project has been added to our agenda for the year. We have been notified that our church will be hosting the **"Cookie Hour"** following the **Church Walk** on Sunday evening December 4th. That means we will be asking for hostesses, coffee and/or hot chocolate makers, oodles of cookies and probably more. By the way, did you know that this event actually began years ago right here in our own church in a first-grade Sunday School classroom? The lesson focused on churches observing Christmas in different ways. The children wanted to visit other churches to see first-hand what was being done in each one. Reverend Hausserman met with Peg's class and the children made tin-can lanterns. Several parents joined the group as they visited three or four churches. The next year they requested to do it again. The event then grew into a community celebration, the walk being led by Gerard Perry from the Catholic Church.

## 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.

### HOSTESSES

For an opportunity to entertain seven of your friends, volunteer to be a hostess at the Festival of Tables December 1st, 2016 in Fellowship Hall. Following a concert (TBA) an elegant desert is served by handsome men in a candle light setting created by hostesses. Contact Marge Irby at 527-1314.

### 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).

### ARTS & CRAFTS

Have you been "creating" this summer? The Harvest Bazaar is scheduled for November 12th. We have openings for vendors. Contact Peg Fell for needs, donations and information.(527-2433) To donate items call Joan MacDonald (527-4999).

**THANK YOU CASSIE STEWART CIRCLE for taking on the Operation Christmas Child project. You are very much appreciated!! Information is in the Narthex.**

### 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 September through June. 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.

### 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)

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WALK

Takes place on Dec. 4th. We are at the end of the walk, so we will host the coffee/cocoa and cookie fellowship. We will need volunteers to bring cookies. Watch for the sign-up sheet.

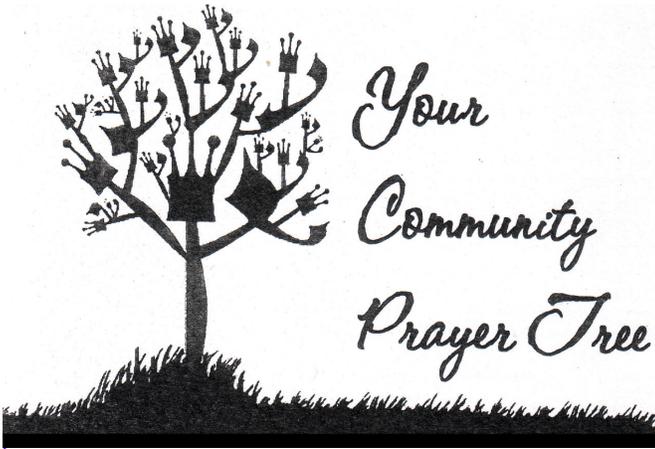
### CHRISTMAS BASKETS

We will need volunteers to be "Super Shoppers" on Dec. 17th. Sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board.

### MEN'S GROUP

We have several opportunities for the women of this church to meet with each other, I wondered if there might be some men interested in starting a men's group. Perhaps getting together for breakfast and maybe a Bible study on Saturday or Sunday morning. Any men interested can contact the church office (527-1860).





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 Paton family for all the contributions you have made, all the time you have given and all the love you have shown to our church. We wish you well as you move on in your lives. May God bless you and guide you in all that you do. We will miss you.*

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:**

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Carol Bookie</b>      | <b>Carol Newkirk</b>     |
| <b>Rick Borup</b>        | <b>Arlene Rowland</b>    |
| <b>Kay Gardner</b>       | <b>Marion Wray</b>       |
| <b>Stuart Weisgerber</b> | <b>Phyllis Whitelock</b> |
| <b>Colleen Thompson</b>  | <b>Lucy Dickenson</b>    |
| <b>Ron Beach</b>         | <b>Jimmy Griffith</b>    |
| <b>Steve Lampman</b>     | <b>Jack Unger</b>        |
| <b>Julie Englehart</b>   | <b>James Ruehs</b>       |
| <b>Ken Keyt</b>          | <b>Marge Irby</b>        |
| <b>Don Wickerham</b>     | <b>Jean Clark</b>        |
| <b>Amanda Stewart</b>    | <b>Don Fell</b>          |
| <b>Darren Stewart</b>    | <b>Jane Ransom</b>       |
| <b>Joyce Slomski</b>     | <b>Bailey Fedon</b>      |
| <b>Gladys Stout</b>      |                          |

Attendance	Giving	Needed
October 2	Figures not available at this time	\$3,000
October 9		\$3,000
October 16		\$3,000
October 23		\$3,000
October 30		

### Missions Report

On October 5th a group of 10 people from our church took a road trip to Holland to visit the factory where the P.E.T.s are made, and deliver the check for the contribution that will build seven P.E.T.s. The tour of the factory was very informative. It is all run by volunteers, and is so well set up that anyone would be able, with very little training, be able work at one of the stations. There are pictures on the mission bulletin board downstairs.

Thank you all for making that donation possible.

The mission for November is Haiti Grace Hospital. There has been so much devastation in Haiti from hurricane Matthew the Hospital needs all the help they can get. UMCOR is on the ground there, and we will be sending them some funding as well. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

### **November**

- 1 James Batista
- 4 Phil Kahl
- 5 Chasity Fedon
- 8 Payton Batista
- 17 Mike Schumacher
- 17 Penny Wineman
- 22 Sharron Chapman
- 29 Joyce Masengale
- 29 Mitch Mercer



## *Anniversaries*

### *November*

- 2 Ron & Judy Roseboom*
- 10 Jim & Carrie Stout*
- 22 Mike & Michelle Schumachar*

## November

### Greeters

- Nov. 6 Sue Curtis
- Nov. 13 Lucille Leslie
- Nov. 20 Nancy Haight
- Nov. 27 Peg Fell

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).

## November

### Nursery

- Nov. 2 Marie Church
- Nov. 13 Noelle Podoll & Amber Campbell
- Nov. 20 Sue Manciu
- Nov. 27 Darcie Van Dop

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).

# November 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Mission Haiti Grace</b>		1 9:30 am Friend-ship Committee 1:30 pm UMW	2	3	4	5
6	7 2:00 pm Creative in Christ  6:00 pm Soup Kitchen	8	9	10 7:00 pm Chrysalis Meeting	11	12 Harvest Bazaar 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
13	14 1:30 pm Cassie Stewart  6:00 pm Soup Kitchen 7:00 pm Ad Board	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 6:00pm Soup Kitchen	22 Newsletter deadline	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen 7:00 pm Missions	29	30 7:00 pm Library Event			

# Fun Page

Let's have a little Thanksgiving fun.

Here in the USA, Thanksgiving started with the Pilgrims in Plymouth Colony.

The Israelites also had a Thanksgiving. It is called Passover.

Here are some words having to do with their thanksgiving all scrambled up.

Have fun unscrambling them.

1. malb

9. tetbir rebsh

2. espes

10. rifst nobr

3. tasog

11. mudegjetn

4. dolob

12. malmiero

5. rosotspod

13. safet

6. neltli

14. sarvopes

7. neuldevne

15. sohyps

8. saredot

16. facesciri



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**Service 9:30am**

**Check it out!**

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

*Happy*

*Thanksgiving*