



105 E. Main
Street

Ionia, MI
48846

Service

11:00 am

www.ioniafirst.com

616-527-1860

**April
2024
Newsletter**



T00HE PASTOR'S PEN

Ionia First

April 2024

God's People,

Well, it's April already. Easter is behind us, so now what? Spring is now upon us, a season of new growth and rebirth. A season of planting flowers and crops, a season where the landscape transforms from lifeless looking trees, shrubs, and vegetation into something alive and flourishing. This is also a time to remember that Jesus is alive and flourishing as well.

While 2024 brings a number of new growth and changes, we are reminded that change is inevitable. As of July 1, 2024, the pastoral leadership will change. Keep in mind that the United Methodist Church itinerates (reappoints) pastors as a part of its heritage. For some this creates anxiety, which is understandable. With this in mind, one of the primary reasons for moving pastors around is so that the church worships the Lord and not the pastor.

(Continue next Page)

Continuation of “Pastor’s Pen”

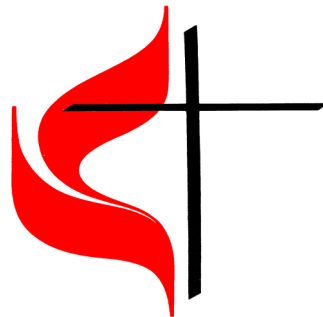
As for me, I will be going to Hartland UMC, which is in the Howell/Brighton area. While I will miss the friends and connections I’ve made in Ionia, I do look forward to sharing God’s message to those at my new appointment. I will be replacing a pastor who is retiring, so the folks at Hartland are likely just as upset about losing their pastor as you are.

I would like to point out that this is a good move for me in that the church is close to my home, so the amount of driving time and the distance from the congregation will be dramatically reduced, which will allow me to be accessible to the congregation and give me more time to do the Lord’s work.

After I am gone, my desire is that you continue to serve the Lord through your church. Embrace your new pastor, and work with them to spread God’s message of love throughout the Ionia community. Just as spring brings new growth, may this pastoral change bring new growth to you, in a multitude of ways.

In His Service,

Pastor Terry



EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Traditional Worship
Communion Every Sunday
Sunday Morning
Coffee Hour 10:00 Service at 11:00

Administration Board Report

Trustee Chair, Joe Brown, has spent countless hours making arrangements for needed repairs and replacements for the Ionia First Church building. Be sure to thank Joe and, if so inclined, offer your assistance and/or sponsorship concerning these necessary decisions.

As part of the church-wide sorting and evaluation of storage space, two tall candle holders with memorial tags have been in storage and are in need of clean up and then a decision of their future use. Your ideas for their placement are welcome. I am going to recommend they be placed in the Chapel where they will certainly add to the dignity and beauty of the room.

The April 13th yard sale benefits Community Drawers where members of this community can come for assistance with daily living. If you are cleaning out the garage, etc., keep this sale in mind, please.

The next Administration Board meeting will be April 11 at 6 pm in the Conference Room next to the Son Rise Café. The closet space in this room is in need of an update as we are now hosting several community events that require storage room. Everyone is welcome and be assured all decisions will be based on board input and approval.

**Linda Ciangi,
Ad. Board Chair**



SPRC -

Jan Powell

Here we go again! The committee, along with Easton's SPRC , met with John Kasper to give him our hopes for a new pastor. As you may or may not know, Pastor Terry has been reassigned as of July 1. The two churches will once again be sharing a pastor because of money constraints. I sincerely hope that we can find adequate housing if necessary. You will learn more as time goes on.

Another concern is for Joel and our technological needs. We will be advertising online for a part-time worker. If you have any hint of someone interested, please call me. It is a demanding job, and Joel is tired.

David has been great at helping Ann and me in the nursery. He has painted a book shelf so we can wrap up the organization. Thanks also to Joe for extending a helping hand. We want this ready when we have concerts in the future.

Jan

Missions

So far for the year, we have given to Community Drawers, Enrich, and Mobility Worldwide. We remain faithful this month by giving our monies to Habitat for Humanity here in Ionia as they are like the restock stores you see about the state. Our gifts will help to build a safe, affordable home. Your dollars help in the following ways:

\$18 helps buy a 50-pound box of nails

\$20 helps purchase paint supplies

\$35 helps to purchase roof shingles

\$50 helps buy a low-flow toilet

\$75 helps as much as possible

This is the 2024 Annual Fund Drive that will help further Habitat's mission to build homes, communities, and hope. Everyone deserves a good home. Monies will be sent directly to the Ionia store.

Do not forget your goodies for the IM Kids meal program. We are filling the pews once again.

Jan

Trustee News

We will be replacing the carpet in the Office starting on May 6, 2024 which is a Monday. The install time will be approximately 3 days. During this time we will be limited as to what we will be able to do in the office. Please have patience. We will be clearing out anything moveable from the office starting on Saturday May 4. Any and all help will be appreciated. We will be starting sometime around 9:30 a.m.

A plumbing company has been contracted to take care of several plumbing issues which have come up. This will replace some broken stools, and make the restrooms come up closer to being ADA compliant. This will also fix leaks in the kitchen, take care of the sink and drain in the café, and several other problems.

Lighting is being worked on and will be completed in within the next few weeks. By fixing and replacing lights especially in the kitchen area, we should cut down considerably on the electrical usage. We pay over \$1,000 per month to Consumers Energy for lights and heat.

The parapet over the south doors has pieces of cement breaking loose and falling in places where someone could be injured. This is going to be repaired when the roof is fixed.

If you see anything which needs attention please let someone know. We are doing our best to repair and replace needed items, but sometimes overlook the small stuff.

Trustee meetings are on the **First Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.** Everyone is invited. April's Meeting is the 3rd.

See you in Church, be Safe,

Joe

Community Drawers News

Hello everyone,

We hope everyone has had a wonderful Easter. Joe and I spent the day after Church sorting what to keep and what to donate at home. As I think most people know, we have listed our home for sale and when it sells we will be moving to a smaller 1 story home. So as you can all imagine, busy, busy, busy.

We are excited to learn that the Great Lakes Chorus will be here at First Church in December to do a concert with a reception to follow. Proceeds will benefit Community Drawers. We are waiting to hear if any of our grants are fruitful this year. I am hoping that at least some of them are. We will be doing another fundraiser around Valentine's Day so pay attention and watch your newsletters for more information.

We are currently working on the Treasure Sale. Remember, if you need help getting stuff here just call and we will be able to help get it picked up and brought down. We will be needing people to come and help that day. It takes many, many hands to do a large sale like this so please consider giving us a couple of hours on Saturday, April 13, 2024. It gives us a chance to share in fellowship while working together as a family.

Thank you everyone for your help with Community Drawers. This past month we took care of 15 families. Three of those families had at least 8 people, multi-generation. In one case 3 generations. We are all so blessed.

Take Care,

Becky Brown, Chairperson Community Drawers,

Reminders

IM KIDS 3rd Meal

- This is an ongoing mission. We are helping to feed over 780 kids each day for their third meal. They are accepting the following items:
 - Peanut butter
 - Jelly or jam
 - Fruit bars
 - Applesauce cups
 - Fruit boxes
 - Snack packs
 - Juice boxes - must be 100 % juice
 - Dry cereal
 - Brown paper lunch bags
- **Please Help fill the two Front Pews of our Church. We will deliver it to where it needs to go.**



IM SAFE CAC

Ionia Montcalm Secure and Friendly Environment
Child Advocacy Center

April Birthdays

Ruth French 17
Virginia Washburn 20
Dennis Perry 20

April Anniversaries

Dave & Roxanne Stiles 01



Attention

Treasure sale April 13

***Get your treasures to
the church***

Prayer Requests

Brent Spencer - Airforce

Phil Kahl

Roberta Sterner

Ethel Clark & Family

**Please send prayer requests to
616-527-1860 or Email to
Bluebirdm66@yahoo.com**

April Liturgists

07 Jan Powell
14 Eric Asher
21 Rebecca Brown
28 Deanna Hotchkin

April 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|---|---------|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Mom's Cooking class 5:30 Trustee @ 10:00 am | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 Moms support group 7:00 | 10. Mom's Cooking class 5:30 | 11 AD Board Meeting 6:00 p.m Zion Community meal at 6:00 p.m. | 12 | :13 |
| 14 Noisy Offering | 15 | 16 | 17 1:30 to 4:30 - Community Drawers Mom's Cooking class 5:30 | 18 Zion Community meal at 6:00 p.m. | 19 ! | 20 |
| 21 Mission Sunday | 22 | 23 Moms support group 7:00 | 24 Mom's Cooking class 5:30 | 25 .Zion Community meal at 6:00 p.m. | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Blue Water Cafe | 29 DEADLINE FOR NEWS LETTER ITEMS | 30 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Finance Report, February 2024
Remaining Balances as of 02/29/2024
Special Funds (Designated Giving)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Memorial fund | 1,879.16 |
| Board of Trustees | 31,856.14 |
| Children's Ministry | 8,099.48 |
| Camp & School Scholarships | 1,777.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | 568.70 |
| Community Drawers | 2281.22 |
| Music on the Green | 1,898.19 |
| Holiday Concert | 3,823.99 |
| Monthly Mission | 620.00 |
| General Evangelism | 5,541.46 |
| General Outreach | 5208.14 |
| Funeral/Wedding/Flowers | 224.00 |
| IM Kids 3rd Meal | 100.00 |

General Fund (Church Budget)

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Income | 4,080.55 |
| Expenses | 10,026.15 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | (5,946.15) |
| Ending Bank Balance | 10,552.94 |

