

"A Symphony of Praise
and Service to God"



**July/August
2014
Newsletter**

A publication of
**First United Methodist
Church**
105 E Main
Ionia, MI 48846
616.527.1860
www.ioniafirst.com
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Worship
Traditional 9:30 am
Contemporary 11:00 am
Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9-Noon

Our Guide on the Way

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:4-5

According to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation there are about 200 people every year that have to be found because they get lost in the woods. 200 people park their cars, start off on a trail and somehow manage to not find their way back. 200 families get worried for their safety and 200 calls to action are sent out to the DEC's rangers to drop what they are doing and go find those people.

Part of the reason people get lost is they go into the unknown unprepared. Whether they are not ready for an emergency or simply do not understand how to read a map. So many people share the misconception that nothing bad can happen to them and when it does they are helpless.

A guide would probably have helped them. A guide would never have allowed those lost folks to set out without first aid kits, proper attire or a good map. A guide would have been with them every step of the way and kept them from the trails they had no business being on.

So it is with our spiritual walk. Declaring myself to be a Christian does not make me a master of spirituality any more than a new pair of hiking boots makes me ready to tackle the Appalachian Trail. In the verses from the Psalm above we read a cry to God to be the guide. The author clearly understands his inadequacies for the trail and the trial ahead of him. Thus he calls out to the One who clearly understands the path and has the power to lead him through.

Today, and perhaps for days to come, I would encourage you to spend some time with the scripture above. It's a simple two lines long and most of us can memorize it in minutes. It would be easy to write it down and set it where you will see it on a regular basis. Take some time and pray those words. Can you pray them with the same level of passion that the author wrote them? Can you ingrain them not only into your mind, but also into your soul?

May it be that we the people of Ionia First UMC will rely on God to be our guide and place our hope in Him all day long.

Peace
Pastor Jon



Synchronize your watches for August and join us at the **International Spy Academy** Vacation Bible School where your special agents will learn to know, love and live for the one true God!

Sunday, August 3 - Thursday, August 7

Preschool program: ages 4-5

Elementary program: going into grades 1-5

Under the big tent downtown

6:15 pm - registration begins

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - program begins

International Spy Academy VBS is filled with fun Bible-learning that kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Our mission is to instill in your children an understanding of the one true God of the Bible that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives and share with those around them. They'll uncover clues that lead to the one true God who is the Creator of all and who calls people from every tribe and nation to come to know Him through His Son Jesus Christ.

Register on-line at www.ioniafirst.com

We need Agents of Truth to complete this mission!

If you are going into middle school or high school...the International Spy Academy needs you! We welcome help in all areas, from food and games to assistant mission leaders. All teen helpers must be registered and trained as volunteers. Please designate "teen" when registering so that your fun-filled, rewarding mission can be coordinated properly.

Adult volunteers are needed to ensure the success of this important mission. Agents are needed for the positions of: group leaders, assistant leaders, games, snacks, security, registration and nursery.

All volunteers can register on-line at www.ioniafirst.com.

CASSIE STEWART NEWS

This group of ladies has also had a rather busy year. I reported earlier that the whole format of this circle changed this year. The group became smaller; attendance diminished due to many reasons but we did not give up. Rather than invite monthly speakers to join us, we became a “hands-on” mission serving group. We learned about various needs of others and then attempted to assist those groups in some meaningful way. Some of our endeavors were geared to other local agencies and some were national and international.

Our June meeting was devoted to assisting our own Brenda Francisco in her preparations for Vacation Bible School. We punched holes, tied yarn, and decorated name tags... stacks of name tags. Of course, while doing these time consuming tasks, we exchanged news, information, and enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship. We have continued to share light refreshments and a devotional time. One comment heard following a meeting was, “You know, I much more enjoy doing something for someone and using my hands than to just sit and listen to a speaker.” This group is really practicing “Ubuntu,” “I am because you are.”

We are still planning to host our September potluck. The date will be **September 11th** and our program for the evening will be one that you all will want to attend. Our guest speakers will be our former pastor, **Marty Culver**, and our former member and friend, now a pastor, **Nancy Paterra**. Together, they will be presenting a synopsis of their recent trip to the **Holy Land**. So mark your calendars now and be prepared to enjoy a fantastic evening.



THIS IS ANOTHER FUND RAISER!

Mark this date on your calendar.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014.

Pick up a coupon from the church. Then plan to visit the Pizza Hut. When you order, give the waitress your coupon and a percentage of your bill will be refunded to our UMW.

THANK YOU!

UMW NEWS



After a United Methodist Women’s event, and truthfully we have been so busy that I cannot remember which one it was, one of our well-meaning colleagues said, “Well, now that this is over you have the whole summer before you with nothing to do until fall!” I was surprised and shocked! Exempting the husbands, have you ever followed a UMW woman around? Well, I can tell you without a doubt, they are the busiest group of women I know. And have you ever heard the saying, “If you want something done, ask a busy person!” I don’t think our UMW women know how to say, “No.”

Let me bring you up-to-date. First of all, plans for the **Trash and Treasurer Sale** are right on target and we gearing up for a busy August 2nd under the tent. I have posted the sign-up sheets for assistance on the down stairs bulletin board. Now, we all know that the “day-off” is a busy one but prior to that day, particularly the whole week prior to that day, there is a lot of preparation work to do. Of course, the first thing is that our church family is gathering no-longer wanted items and will donate them for our sale. The items, which we are hoping you will price, can be brought to the garage the week of. **Hours will be posted.** As the donations come in, **we need a committee to sort, mark, and prepare items for the sale.** August 2 we will need **assistance on the floor.** So, **check the sign-up sheets and consider giving us a hand.** Proceeds, of course, go into our Christmas Basket Mission and other missions that we support.

Something was mentioned last Tuesday at our “**Hot Dog Sale**” at *Music on the Green*. Yes, proceeds from that endeavor also are added to our Mission Fund. Our **Christmas Basket Mission** has really become an “almost year round” project. Most of you realize that it is a huge undertaking. There are changes every year depending on the needs of our recipients. Last year we served 16 families, ten referred by 8Cap and the others referred by our church families. Our grocery bill, in addition to your contributions, was close to \$1300.00. You contributed clothes and other requested items, and then, we purchased the items needed but not donated. Several needed shoes and you all know how expensive they are .

The United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 20th in Greenville. The local units of UMW are recognized for the work they have accomplished during the year and the contributions they have made. On **Sunday, September 28th**, we here at First will observe **Women’s Sunday** and recognize our own diligent and faithful volunteers. I have posted the information regarding your opportunity to nominate our **2014 Dove recipient.** Please nominate your choice and put the form in the UMW mail box by **July 15.** Names have to be submitted to the district board so that pins can be ordered and certificates completed. **We need your input** (There will be further detail regarding the annual meeting in the next newsletter). We have invited **Judy Huynh** to be our speaker that morning. She recently traveled to Africa and attended the dedication of the University of Africa. She will be sharing with us her experiences and pictures of that trip.

Now, just in case you have a few idle minutes this summer, we hope you will use them to create something wonderful for our **All Church Bazaar.** This event always is scheduled for **November** but we are just reminding you to begin thinking about what you want to contribute and get your creative juices flowing.

Your UMW board thanks each and every one who assisted us through the year and contributed to our mission projects, the UMCOR Health Kits, the Undies Sunday, Christmas Basket Mission, and all other events. It is working together that makes it possible to accomplish all that we have. We hope that you have enjoyed the Lenten potlucks, the Special Coffee Hours, the Thanksgiving Dinner, the Festival of Tables, and all the other social events we have sponsored or collaborated with others in doing. Now...

Remember each morning to give thanks and say,

“This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

July 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 7:30 MoG Community Band	2	3 VBS Bake Sale @ fairgrounds City of Ionia Fireworks	4 Independence Day 	5
6	7 7-Trustees	8 1:30-UMW 3-PPR 7:30-MoG Cool Blues/ Harmony	9	10	11	12
13 5-Adopt-a-Hay	14 7-VBS mtg. 7:30-Ad Board	15 7:30 MoG 3 Husbands on the Loose	16	17 Ionia Free Fair begins	18	19 11am-Free Fair Parade
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Trash & Treasure drop off @ Garage 6-VBS Train- ing	29 Trash & Treasure drop off @ Garage	30 Trash & Treasure drop off @ Garage	31 Trash & Treas- ure drop off @ Garage 6-VBS Training		

August 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Trash & Treasure drop off @ Garage	2 9am-4pm UMW Trash and Treasure
3 6:30-8 VBS Begins!	4 6:30-8 VBS	5 VOTING DAY! 1:30 UMW	6 6:30-8 VBS	7 6:30-8 VBS	8	9
10	11	12 UMW Pizza Hut fundraiser 	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29 Labor Day weekend Office closed Monday Sept. 1	30

Note to Greeters: Remember, if you have scheduled to be a greeter and cannot do so, call the office (527-1860) or call Peg (527-2433). Greeting we consider to be important. You are fulfilling an important responsibility and we appreciate your being at the door at 9:15 and 10:45 welcoming our church family and friends to services.

GREETERS

- July 6 Larry and Sheila Ransom
- 13 Al and Marge Irby
- 20 Kevin and Sue Curtis
- 27 Lucille Leslie
- August 3 Louie Slater
- 10 June Faulkner
- 17 Pat Arnold
- 24 Nancy Haight



Adopt-a-Hwy

Meet at church, 5pm

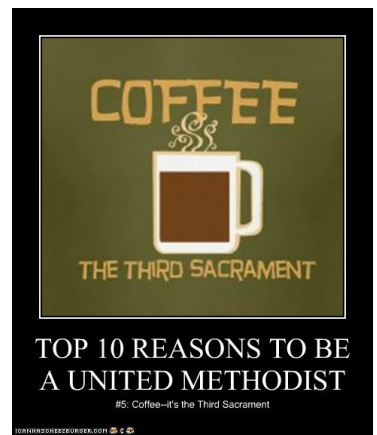
July 13
(back up date July 20)

September 21
(back up date Sept. 28)

IMPORTANT

SOME NEEDS

We need someone or several people to take over the coffee ministry in the Sunrise Café.



ALSO

The church email address will now be ioniafirst@gmail.com

Did you know we have a website? www.ioniafirst.com
See Joel with information or dates to share.



How the rest of the world sees the Seasons

How United Methodists see the Seasons

Welcome Pastor Jon, Darcie and Nicholas!

BIRTHDAYS

July

- 4 Sheila Ransom
- 5 Nicholas Van Dop
- 8 Judy Gregory
- 10 Sarah Hamilton
- 13 Clyde Stout
- 14 Lou Borton
- 18 Joel Kilgore
- 19 Don Fell
- 23 Andrew Badder
- 23 Isabella Teunissen
- 26 June Faulkner
- 27 Christina Frost
- 27 Glenn Joy
- 28 Darcie Van Dop
- 28 Mackenzie Mercer
- 28 Will Paton
- 29 Sue Manciu
- 30 Ron Rozeboom

August

- 3 Pat Zander
- 18 Lewis Slater
- 20 Anna Francisco
- 22 Jean Clark
- 25 Mariel Joy
- 27 Kali McKinch
- 31 Margie First



ANNIVERSARIES

July

- 4 Paul and Christina Frost
- 6 Sharron and Bill Hartman
- 10 Jon and Darcie Van Dop
- 15 Ted and Kim Paton
- 25 Mitch and Sari Mercer

August

- 2 Larry and Sheila Ransom
- 9 Dick and Jackie Christiansen
- 16 Andy and Kendra Badder

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



Family and Friends of Polly Buckingham

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dave Ruehs | Patricia Stock | Jim Martin |
| Ken Keyt | Sadie Goodemoot | James Ruehs |
| Ceballos Family | James Jarosch | Mark Workman |
| Carol Bookie | Tracey Lhamon | Paul Barnes |
| Clyde Stout | John Clark | Carol Newkirk |
| Dave O'Mara | Nancy Rowan | Colleen Thompson |
| Steve Lampman | Lauri Zimmerman | Ron Hotchkiss |
| Lucy Dickinson | Susan Heft | 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 Jon Van Dop
Jan Powell
Al Irby
Al MacDonald
Peg Fell
Gladys Stout
Jodi Hagen
Jerry Winter
Larry Ransom
June Faulkner
Ted Paton
Joan MacDonald

Finance

Al Irby (Chair)
Mindy Talbot
Ethel Clark
Al MacDonald

Investment Fund Committee

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

Trustees

Ken Felice
Stuart Church
John Fate
Jerry Winter
James Wagner
Miller Hotchkin
Pat Copeland

Staff/Parish Relations

Ted Paton (Chair)
Roxanne Stiles
Nancy Haight
Kiplynn Moore
Mike Schumacher



105 E. Main Street
Ionia, MI 48846

Traditional Service 9:30am
Contemporary Service 11am
Check it out!
www.ioniafirst.com

7th Annual

www.ioniafirst.com

Ionia Music on the Green

Downtown Ionia Music Festival around the Courthouse.

July 8	7:30pm Cool Blues and Harmony
July 15	7:30pm 3 Husbands on the Loose