

"A Symphony of Praise
and Service to God"



**105 E. Main
Street**

**Ionia, MI
48846**

**Traditional
Service 9:30am**

**Contemporary
Service 11am**

**www.ioniafirst.
com**

**July
August
2015
Newsletter**



From the desk of Pastor Jon

Holiness

Exodus 3:5: Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

To be holy is to be like God. There is a contemporary Christian song that says, "Holiness is what I long for." This is the calling to us who follow Christ. We are to be holy as Christ is holy.

That may sound like a lot of wordy church jargon. Some may find themselves slowly descending into a sleep like state and their eyelids getting heavier as they imagine a droning sermon about being like God. And I'll admit, sometimes thinking about God and trying to communicate what God calls us to can be heady business. It requires that we don't check our brains at the door and just as importantly, it requires that our hearts are fully engaged as well.

In the verse above, Moses is told two things: First, not to come closer and second, to take off his shoes because he's standing on holy ground. It strikes me as a dichotomy that on the one hand Moses shouldn't get closer and yet should allow nothing, not even the soles of his sandals to get between him and God.

Sometimes I think we do the opposite. We do our best to pull away from the burning bushes in our lives and keep our sandals on so that we can better run. Many of our encounters with God can scare us. There's probably a reason that most angels in scripture open their conversations with people by saying, "Do not be afraid."

Holiness is scary stuff. It means leaving behind the things of this world and yearning for the things of God. It means looking in to allow God to take away the darkness and it means looking out to see where God would use us. It means a step, if not a leap, of faith every time we have a conversation or every time we feel that nudge of the Spirit within our hearts.

Yet, for all that, holiness is one of the best things ever. Holiness is freedom from the way the world works. Holiness is the joy of the Lord. Holiness defies conventional wisdom and declares that there is another way. Holiness is beauty found within the divine.

So today make a decision not to run. Choose to take off your sandals. Start looking for the burning bush in your life. Listen for the voice of God. Holiness is calling you. Will you answer?

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Church**
105 E Main
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Pack for the ultimate Kilimanjaro adventure.

Vacation Bible School

August 9 thru 13

6:30 til 8:30

Register at: www.ioniafirst.com



Summer! "As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that summer is already near." (Luke 21:30). And so we don't have to imagine anymore. It's true! Butterflies, sunshine, warmth, flowers, gardens, Music on the Green all add up to "summer".

Along with the change of season comes a change of activities and pace. I don't want to shock any of you, but have you considered what you are doing or going to do to contribute to the November Bazaar? The "lazy days of summer" just might be conducive to providing time for your creative juices to flow. Remember, this isn't just a "ladies" thing. You men have contributed in the past and we really look forward to your participation and contributions.

Gladys is planning on chairing our FUM booth and is looking forward to having many creative projects, decorative items (seasonal or otherwise), woodcraft articles, jams, jellies, baked goods, mixes of various kinds and other unique items to entice eager shoppers. We are not encouraging "Christmas in July", but perhaps you could at least begin to think about your "Gifts for the Bazaar." Let's make this an "all church" project and have our whole church family involved in some way. The date has not yet been confirmed, but the date of the All Church Bazaar will probably be November 14th.

Another reminder! Each year, the Dove Award is given to a First United Methodist Woman who has gone above and beyond all expectations in performing or contributing in some meaningful way to the projects and activities of our church. Again, we need your nominations for the Dove recipient. Forms are available on the UMW bulletin board in the lower hall. Just please put these nominations in the UMW's mailbox. The deadline for the nominations is July 31st. Again, thanks.

Remember that Vacation Bible School is being planned and willing hands and willing hearts are needed. Don't be shy! Call the office and volunteer your talents and time. The rewards felt and recognized after assisting in such a project often outweigh those experienced by the children. Vacation Bible School is for all the young and the "not so Young" at heart. Again, let's support this whole-heartedly.

I know it seems early, but we have already confirmed programs for two of our special up-coming events, and you will want to reserve the dates. We are excited about both. For information regarding the Cassie Stewart Potluck, see the Cassie Stewart report. By special requests... yes, plural...we have again invited Nancy Crumback to return to present another marimba concert for our Festival of Tables celebration. After hearing the glowing reports of last year's event, many who missed her wanted to have a second chance and those who heard her presentation last year, wanted more. So she has said, "Yes" to our invitation. So reserve December 3, 2015 and plan to be with us. And don't forget, ladies, it is the festival of tables and so we also want you to share your artistic and creative talent. Call Marge Irby and volunteer to host a table.

Please watch the bulletin boards, the Sunday bulletins and your emails for updates. Enjoy the summer!

Peg

CASSIE STEWART CIRCLE and QUILTERS NEWS

Pastor Jon is promoting the concept of “small groups”. Members of the Cassie Stewart Circle and the Quilters have both decided that they are small groups. However, they both would like to grow.

The Quilters meet on Thursday morning in Fellowship Hall. As they keep their fingers busy making those minute stitches, they enjoy a wonderful and beautiful fellowship. They are inviting anyone who would like to quilt or learn to quilt to consider joining them. If you have the desire or want information about this activity, call Gladys Stout, 527-2308.

Now Cassie Stewart Circle also wants to entice new attendees. During the last two years our format has completely changed. Instead of sitting and listening to speakers share their expertise, the members have become more “involved”. As previously reported, this last year, we stuffed dolls for SMILE, we collected items and packed health kits for UMCOR, we assisted with the Christmas Basket Project, we created a learning activity for the Sunday school children, we assisted Marilyn Nash in sorting and organizing materials in the Legacy Room, we trimmed boxes for Haiti, we worked one session at the Christian Center, we had a Kitchen Shower for our kitchen, and we cut hospital gowns for children. Our last meeting this year was in keeping with tradition. We made name tags and name tags and more name tags for Vacation Bible School. We have become very good friends, supporting each other in good and bad times. We have found a joy in sharing and providing for others.

We meet the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall unless otherwise announced. Instead of the elaborate desserts previously served, we munch on a cookie while we work. Of course, occasionally, we do pamper ourselves. This last week we did have an extra meeting, a delightful extra meeting. Maybelle Drake entertained us at her Morrison Lake summer home and we had a wonderful afternoon, oohing and aahing over the scenic beauty and just enjoyed being with each other. Thank you Maybelle.

Our next meeting will be a potluck on Thursday, September 10th. You are all invited! Men, women and children. We will have child-care services. In fact we are inviting members of other community churches to join us. Our speaker will be Judy Huynh. Her topic will be Trafficking. This is a topic which our Methodist Mission School and many other agencies are promoting. It is important that we learn what is happening not only around the world, but right here in Ionia perhaps. So, once more, you are invited! Bring a dish to share, your own table service, an open, receptive mind and a desire to get to know our own church family better and meet others from our neighboring churches.

And now.....We are off to enjoy the summer.

Adopt a Highway

- On April 12, 2015, seven members of the Adopt-a-Highway team gathered up 18 bags of trash from our 3 miles of M-21. One member felt compelled to complete 1-1/2 miles by herself on the following Saturday, adding 5 more bags of trash. It would be much appreciated if we could get more volunteers for the July 12th cleanup. Trash can be gathered anytime the week after that date if you cannot make our 5:00pm meeting time at the church.
- This year's pickup dates are:
 - July 12 and 19
 - Sept. 27
 - Oct. 4

Do you have a heart to serve?

Do you want to add more purpose to your life?

Heartland Hospice is seeking volunteers to visit, read and provide companionship to patients.

If you would like more information on how you can enrich other's lives call: Julie Dindorf/Volunteer Coordinator at 231-924-0153



SUMMER CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES

Here is a link to summer camps through our West Michigan Conference:
www.westmichiganconference.org/pages/detail/2237

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-Helicopter pilot, Key West
Andy Hoort-Nurse, Walter Reed
Daniel Zander-Major U.S. Army Ft. Lewis-McChord
Duane Baliff
Austin Campbell - Air Force

Marion Wray
Dave Stiles
Lucy Dickinson
Julie Englehart
James Jarosch
LeeAnn Aikens
Carol Bookie
James Ruehs
Carol Newkirk
Arlene Rowland
Katie Lincoln
Rick Borup
Ken Keyt

Tracey Lhamon
Colleen Thompson
Millie Parus
Cammy Fike
Randy McCoy
Kay Gardner
Gary Brownell
Josh Hans
Pat Moore
Jimmy Griffith

The **5** Love Languages



How to understand and express your love for one another.

Thursdays at 7 p.m.

A Six-Week Study Beginning June 11th

Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul

Captivating

Women's Bible/Book Study
Thursdays at 10 a.m. or 7 p.m.

A Six-Week Study beginning
Thursday, July 23

For more information, contact
Darcie Van Dop at 527-4654

BIRTHDAYS

July

4 Sheila Ransom
 5 Nic Van Dop
 8 Judy Gregory
 10 Sarah Hamilton
 18 Joel Kilgore
 19 Don Fell
 23 Andrew Badder
 23 Isabella Teunissen
 23 Sharry Cusack
 26 June Faulkner
 27 Glenn Joy
 28 Darcie Van Dop
 28 Mackenzie Mercer
 28 Will Paton
 29 Sue Manciu
 30 Ron Roseboom

August

3 Patricia Zander
 18 Lewis Slater
 20 Anna Francisco
 22 Jean Clark
 25 Mariel Joy
 31 Margie First



ANNIVERSARIES

July

10 Jon & Darcie Van Dop
 15 Ted & Kim Paton
 25 Mitch & Sari Mercer

August

2 Larry & Sheila Ransom
 9 Dick & Jackie
 Christianson
 16 Andy & Kendra Badder

July

Ushers (entire month)

John Cegelis, Al MacDonald

Greeters

July 5 Melissa Wagner
 July 12 Maybelle Drake
 July 19 Sharron Chapman
 July 26 Doris Simpson

Communion Stewards

5 Ruth French

Nursery

5 2nd
 12 2nd
 19 2nd
 26 2nd

**VOLUNTEERS
 NEEDED**

August

Ushers (entire month)

Ken Felice, Jerry Winter

Greeters

Aug. 2 Phil Kahl
 Aug. 9 Marge Bowne
 Aug. 16 Joyce Slomski & Dennis Buckman
 Aug. 23 Avis White
 Aug. 30 Jana & Phil Fedon

Communion Stewards

2 Doris Simpson

Nursery

2 2nd
 9 2nd
 16 2nd
 23 2nd
 30 2nd

**VOLUNTEERS
 NEEDED**

Note: If you are unable to greet as scheduled please trade with another greeter or call Peg Fell so she can find a substitute.

July 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Missions Appalachia Service Pro- ject/P.E.T.			1	2 7 Five Love Languages	3	4
5 Communion	6 7-Trustees	7 9:30 Friendship 10 Grief Share 1:30 UMW 7:30 Music on the Green	8	9 7 Five Love Languages	10	11
12 Noisy Offering 5pm Adopt a Highway	13	14 10-Grief Share	15 7 Five Love Languages	16 Pastor Jon at Chrysalis	17 _____	18 _____ Fair Parade
19 Missions Pastor Jon at Chrysalis	20 7 Ad Board Meeting	21 10 Grief Share	22	23 10am and 7pm “Captivating” Book Study	24	25
26	27 7 Missions Meeting	28 10-Grief Share	29	30	31	

August 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Communion	3	4 9:30 Friendship 10 Grief Share 1:30 UMW	5	6	7	8
9 Noisy VBS	10 VBS	11 VBS	12 VBS	13 VBS	14	15
16 Missions	17 Pastor Jon on vacation	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Newsletter deadline	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



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Contemporary Service 11am

Check it out!
www.ioniafirst.com

The graphic background for the 'Music on the Green' section features a large yellow sun on the left, a musical staff with notes on the right, and a large blue treble clef on the left. The text "MUSIC on the Green" is prominently displayed in the center, with "MUSIC" in blue, "on the" in red, and "Green" in green. Below the title, it says "Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m." in green.

MUSIC on the Green

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 9 | <i>Ionia High School and Middle School Jazz Bands</i> |
| June 16 | <i>Rising Stars</i> |
| June 23 | <i>Shelby Ann-Marie with the Royal Ramblers</i> |
| June 30 | <i>Ionia Community Band</i> |
| July 7 | <i>Harmony</i> |