

"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**

**November
December
2015
Newsletter**



From the desk of Pastor Jon

Peace on Earth

On April 20, 1999 I was walking through a rather nice hallway in the Coast Guard barracks of Training Center Petaluma, CA. It was a beautiful day like most northern California days are in mid-Spring. I was most of the way through my training program and was looking forward to my next duty station in Woods Hole, MA. In short, life was pretty good.

But for some that was a day of tragedy. At the end of the hallway there was a TV room. Usually someone was off duty and lounging around either playing a video game or watching something. But the TV rooms were never that crowded and certainly not ever standing room only. Today, I saw a crowd and someone was walking out of the room.

"What happened?"

"There was a shooting somewhere in Colorado...it was a school."

That was the day I began to think of schools in a slightly different way. Although far from the first incident of mass violence at a school, this is the one that began to change the way I looked at institutions of elementary education and how cowards could choose to use them as targets.

That incident and every subsequent shooting that targeted vulnerable people has caused me to realize that the church needs to be a larger voice when it comes to speaking about the sanctity of life. Beyond an ineffective debate over 2nd Amendment rights (I don't really care where you stand on the issue because the discussion hasn't gone anywhere in nearly two decades), lets get people talking about the value of every person.

You are a child of God. The Creator of the universe loves you beyond words. The premature loss of any of those people is tragic because each person is a gift from God. When violence is used to cut a life short it is like spitting in the eye of the Creator as if to say God was mistaken in putting this one on earth. The sin is both against the person *and* against God.

Thanksgiving and Christmas will be upon us soon. These holidays will often offer opportunities to talk with people about matters of faith. This year I want to encourage you to take those chances to talk with a friend or family member about how much God loves them. Perhaps, knowing that they are loved will make the difference in their lives.

Peace, Pastor Jon

If you want to learn about one of the first incidences of school violence, you only need to travel a little less than an hour from Ionia to Bath, MI. In 1927 some very bad things happened there.

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A publication of
**First United Methodist
Church**

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United
Methodist



Women

Years ago, in 1687 to be exact, Sir Isaac Newton wrote "an object in motion tends to remain in motion.....". It is interesting to note that this Law of Motion also applies to you and me. We are the "object". Now we all are guilty of procrastination. However, if we take one small step and volunteer to do one small thing, to get "engaged", to get in "motion", we may suddenly find that one "small effort" leads to another and Before you know it, you are, indeed, involved. Motivation follows "getting started." All it takes is to "get in motion." When you do, you will find that you benefit also: you will feel a joy from being a "part", you will cultivate new friendships, you will grow spiritually, your faith will become strengthened. You will cultivate new friendships. You just have to make that first small "move". There are many opportunities for you here at First. We sincerely invite you to get involved and "move".

Opportunities to Serve and Participate

ALL CHURCH BAZAAR

November 14, 2015

9:00 am—2:00 pm

Thanks to all who have volunteered to contribute food, assist in the kitchen, work in our booth with Gladys, help set-up and organize and work "behind the scenes." We appreciate all you are doing!

If you want to join the work force, contact Peg.

REMEMBER... YOU ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR BRUNCH FEATURING HOME-MADE DONUTS AND/OR FOR A SLOPPY JOE AND A PIECE OF PIE FOR LUNCH. THEN ENJOY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING! SEE YOU AT THE BAZAAR!

FESTIVAL OF TABLES

December 3, 2015

7:00 pm

At present we have 11 tables. Hostesses are dreaming up beautiful table decorations.

Nancy Crumback is returning with her Marimba Concert. If you missed her last year, don't make the same mistake this year. If you would like to just attend the concert, contact Peg.

If you would like to host a table, contact Marge Irby. Men, if you would like to assist as a server at the dessert, contact Mark Workman.

CHRISTMAS BASKET

MISSION SCHEDULE

Families are being interviewed as to needs, allergies, storage & refrigeration.

Families are screened so that there is no "double-dipping."

Nov. 26... Request tree will be up.

Dec. 1st through 13th Donations may be brought to the **Legacy Room** across from the kitchen.

Dec. 14th... All moved to Fellowship Hall. Wrapping party will be held on Tuesday night. (6:30 on)

Dec. 15-18 Wrapping, checking, purchasing, finalizing.

Dec. 19... Grocery Shopping & Delivery.

WATCH BULLETIN BOARD FOR UP-DATED INFORMATION Paper products and wrappings have been donated

The members of your United Methodist Women's Board thank all you United Methodist Women, all the women of this church, who so graciously and diligently have supported and promoted all our mission efforts this past year. And we cannot forget that there have been many times when we have needed you men. Your assistance has been much appreciated. We thank the Lord for the grace that strengthens us for tasks great and small.

Cassie Stewart Circle News

The November meeting of the Cassie Stewart Circle will be Monday, November 9th in Fellowship Hall. We welcome anyone who would like to join us in our "hands on" endeavors.

In October we tested our artistic skills as we decorated lunch bags for the IM Kids program. It is estimated that about 2,500 bags are needed each month. Our several dozen was only a "drop in the bucket". However, we all agreed that Sarah Hamilton was our most artistic member.

Each year we like to remember the children of our church and show them that they are important to us. Our November mission project will be one to benefit them. Our meeting will be a Christmas workshop and we will be creating a Christmas surprise for our kids and plan their "Happy Birthday Jesus" party.

Cutting and organizing the Gift Tags for our Christmas families will be our goal in December. When we consider that approximately 130 people might be served and that each person receives a personal gift and a gift of clothing, that totals about 260 tags. Because they have to be color-coded as to recipient and family that makes the process a little complicated challenge. Rest assured! We have a system.

Contagious Christmas

Ionia First United Methodist Church
Women's Mini-Retreat
Saturday, December 12, 2015
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Please RSVP to Darcie Van Dop (527-4654)
or Sheila Ransom (527-1662)

Please invite a friend to enjoy
this fun holiday treat with you!

A contagious Christmas?

Yes! A Christmas so full of joy it can't help but spread.

We hope you'll join us!

The recycling bins have been relocated to Fellowship Hall where they are more visible and accessible. Remember we collect soup labels for the schools, ink cartridges and small sample bottles of grooming supplies such as you get when staying at hotels for RAVE, empty cereal and other boxes for Haiti, and pop can tabs for Community House in Grand Rapids. These are all worthy causes and every donation helps someone.

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

Soup Kitchen is in need of desserts, and also someone to help clean up on the 1st and 4th Monday of each month from 6:00 to 6:45 pm.

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
Colleen Thompson
Lucy Dickinson
Julie Englehart
Randy McCoy
Kay Gardner
Carol Bookie
James Ruehs
Carol Newkirk
Arlene Rowland
Jack Unger**

**Dave Stiles
Rick Borup
Stuart Church
Cammy Fike
LeeAnn Aikens
Katie Lincoln
Gary Brownell
Steve Lampman
Ken Keyt
Jimmy Griffith
Lisa Dvorak**

Library Events

Wednesday November 4, 7:00 pm

Capturing Michigan's Beauty by Robert Domm

The presentation will feature Michigan's four seasons and its back road beauty and also highlight how the images were created. Robert's work has appeared in Sierra, National Wildlife, Photo Technique, and Outdoor Photographer magazines. He is the author/photographer of several books on Michigan history and travel and is the co-producer of the book Rain Gardens, which promotes sustainable landscaping techniques.

Wednesday December 2, 7:00 pm

Artisan Cheese Making by Gary Colles

Gary has been making artisan cheeses for nearly two decades and has received training over the years from master crafters in Ontario, New England and Pennsylvania. Gary now spreads his knowledge by teaching the craft throughout the Eastern U.S. He says he "usually learns something new in each class I teach." Gary will demo a Mozzarella with tasty samples to share with the audience.

Where there is love, there are always miracles

Willa Cather

Love is the only thing that

Is OK to do in excess.

BIRTHDAYS

November

4 Phil Kahl
 17 Mike Schumacher
 17 Penny Wineman
 22 Sharron Chapman
 29 Joyce Masengale
 29 Mitch Mercer

December

1 Dorothy Stewart
 1 Carrie Stout
 4 RJ Gardner
 5 Charles Spaans
 8 Ted Paton
 8 Andrew Paton
 9 Doris Simpson
 9 Janessa Shattuck
 12 Paul Frost
 12 Jane Ransom
 16 Matt Falice
 20 Greg Hotchkin
 21 Myrtle Davids
 23 Jackie Christian-
 sen
 31 Eric Fulcher



ANNIVERSARIES

November

2 Ron and Judy Rozeboom
 10 Jim and Carrie Stout
 11 Tony and Jodi Hagen
 22 Mike and Michelle
 Schumacher

December

11 Dan and Margie First
 13 Jim and Carrie Batista
 27 Ken and Ann Felice

November

Greeters

Nov. 1 Ken & Ann Felice
 Nov. 8 Jan Powell
 Nov. 15* Kiplynn Moore
 Nov. 22* Hunter Wagner
 Nov. 29 Jerry & Janet Winter

Nursery

1 2nd
 8 2nd
 29 2nd

**VOLUNTEERS
 NEEDED**

December

Greeters

Dec. 6 Phil Kahl
 Dec. 13 Sharron Chapman
 Dec. 20* Melissa Wagner
 Dec. 27 Avis White

Nursery

6 2nd
 13 2nd
 27 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.

* Combined Service

November 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion	2	3 9:30 Friendship Comm. 1:30 UMW 7:00 Small Grp	4 7:00 Library Event - Capturing Michigan's Beauty	5 6:30 CROP Walk Meeting	6	7 9:00 am Trustees Clean-up Day
8 1-2:30 Youth Group	9 1:30 Cassie Stewart 7:00 pm Ad Board Meeting	10 7:00 Small Group	11	12	13 Set up for Bazaar	14 All Church Bazaar 9-3 Worship planning for 2016
15 Combined Service 1-2:30 Youth Group	16	17 7:00 Small Group	18	19 7:00 Chrysalis Meeting	20	21 Worship Planning Meeting 10:00 am-3:00 pm
22 Combined Service 11:00 Church Conference 12:00 Thanksgiving Dinner 1-2:30 Youth Group	23 6:00 Library Art-prize Award Ceremony	24 7:00 pm Small Group	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 1-2:30 Youth Group	30	<u>Missions</u> Haiti Grace Samaritan's Purse				

December 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:30 Friendship Committee 1:30 UMW	2 7:00 Library Event—Artisan Cheese Making Son Rise Café	3 Festival of Tables	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 7:00 Chrysalis Meeting	11	12 9:30-11:30 Contagious Christmas Women's Mini Retreat— Son Rise Cafe
13 3:00 pm Community Christmas program	14 Prepare for Christmas Baskets	15 _____	16 _____	17 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service _____	18 _____	19 Deliver Baskets
20	21	22	23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Pastor Jon Vacation	26 _____
27 _____	28 _____	29 _____	30 _____	31 _____	_____	_____



**105 E. Main Street
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Contemporary Service 11am
Check it out!
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**Ionia MEIJER Simply Give
DOUBLE MATCH DAYS**

Friday, and Saturday November 13-14, 2015

To benefit the **Zion Community Food Pantry**

For every \$10.00 card you purchase, Meijer will
Double their match for a total gift of \$30.00
To the food pantry.
(they will double any amount)

(Save your card and receipt for your income tax deductions)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!