



Reed City United Methodist Church

March 2023 Newsletter

Pastor Daniel Hofmann

The Natural State of Being

This month's 'Pastor's Column' comes to you by way of Pastor Tim Carson, the Senior Pastor at The Estero Church in Estero, Florida. His blog was shared with the Leadership Team at the February meeting, and I felt that Pastor Tim's words were very timely then and, perhaps even more so, these days. May you be as blessed by these words as I am.

The Lenten season offers many opportunities for reflection, evaluation, and furthering direction. As we know, in our own United Methodist denomination, there is much seeking of direction as we are reflecting on the future of our collective churches. No matter which way we look at it, there is plenty of frustration and anxiety about the tomorrows.

We read and hear news of denominational turmoil around our country. There's a lot of sadness and anger in wondering how our beloved United Methodist Church became so "untied." Yet, some congregations are joyful in their decisions, feeling that they can best support their mission in service by aligning with the Global UMC. Others look forward to the more enveloping inclusiveness of a progressive church, or a different denomination entirely. And those in the middle of it all? They're looking to understand a measure of "spaciousness" (as described by our own Bishop, David Bard), embracing our Wesleyan heritage with a loving and inclusive appreciation of what brings us together in Christian faith.

These are difficult times. There are no simple answers, but we can look to scripture for support. Paul tells us (Philippians 4:47), *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Anxiety is a natural thing. It comes from processing circumstances of uncertainty and unfamiliarity. It comes from concern over leaving a comfortable place for something new. It can also come in facing a lot of work and stepping into a place we're not sure of with people we may not know. Decisions rarely come without some experience of anxiety. That's not wrong, it just "is."

The good news: Paul gives us a solid "out" for our worry! He's urging us to transfer our anxiety with faith—turning it over directly to God and leaving it with Him. What a gift! An unconditional one, at that! Imagine yourself sitting at the kitchen table with Jesus, and as you're talking with Him, you're writing down your worries on pieces of paper and passing them across the table to him. He waits patiently for you to let go of your grip on them, and smiles as you turn them over to him, each and every last one. "There!" He says, "I'm so glad you trusted me with these. They're mine now. Finished. Done. No worries! Be happy!" Can you imagine your feelings at that moment? Whew! An overwhelming feeling of...peace, beyond understanding? God's peace—to fill your heart and still your mind in Jesus!

Perhaps Lent offers us an opportunity to sit across the table with Christ, to let go of our worries, trusting that God has us firmly in his care. Again, Paul's words, from Romans 15:13: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him..."*



IN PERSON:

9:30 am SUNDAYS

Services are livestreamed
on Facebook and YouTube

Find us on the Radio at 97.3 FM
at 10 am on Sundays

March 5

Second Sunday in Lent

Celebrate Communion

Genesis 12:1-4a;

John 3:1-17

*"The Longest and Most
Difficult Journey"*

Liturgist: Sheri Thompson

March 12

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42

"Give Us Water, LORD!"

Liturgist: Susie Toogood

March 19

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13;

John 9:1-41

"In the Presence"

Liturgist: Vicki Saladin

March 26

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14;

John 11:20-45

"Can These Bones Live?"

Liturgist: Sandy Gingrich

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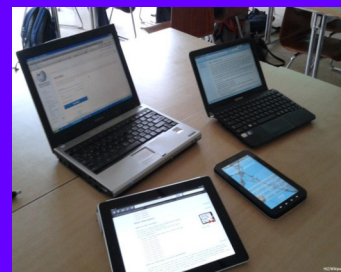
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Happenings Around Our Church Building

We've had some good work done by helpful folks, who have pitched in to help fix, clean, and refurbish. Here are a few:

Thanks to Jerry Peters, for restoring the tops on our two small tables from the sanctuary. They were made by a parishioner in the '70s and have been on our 'to-do list' for a long while. Jerry has restored them with fresh, waterproof surfaces, and they're better than new!

Last month, one of our resident good-deed-doers (Lola Callaghan) took on the task of refurbishing the butcher block island top in our kitchen. A request for help was pitched to our email list, and again, Jerry responded. After many hours of deep cleaning by Lola, Jerry brought in his sander and, along with some help (pictured: Jerry, Sonia, Lola and Jim B Thompson), and a final oil finish by Lola, that butcher block again looks brand-new! Thank you, Lola, for your work and leadership! Additionally, our women have completely sorted, cleaned and organized our kitchen—whew! Thanks to Angelia Spencer, Terri Weiss, Lola Callaghan and others who dug into that project!

Blessed are the available! Especially, our thanks to Del Troutman, for making herself available to help out in our office during the time Carolyn was ill with Covid.

Del—you're a gem!

Our January Blood Bank was a success! We had 27 donors, collected 20 pints (meeting our goal), and enlisted 3 new donors! This resulted in 60 lives being impacted by the gift of life—wow! It was fun to hear conversation around the canteen table, and the Versiti staff were awesome and appreciative of our hosting. Thanks to all who came in to donate, those who helped with hospitality, and those who recruited donors.

OUR NEXT **BLOOD DRIVE**

is Thursday, March 16th

10:30 am – 4:30 pm

LET'S FILL ALL APPOINTMENTS!



**THIS INFORMATION
IS NOT AVAILABLE
ON THE WEBSITE**



Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 12th

**Remember to turn your clocks
AHEAD ONE HOUR before going to bed
on Saturday night, March 11th**

Scholarship Applications Are Currently Available

Scholarship applications are available in the church office and are due no later than **Monday, April 3rd**, along with a current transcript (through the first semester of 2022-2023). For some scholarships, recipients must be full confirmed members of RCUMC, and/or active in the life of the church.



**COFFEE HOUR
FOLLOWING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY**

Contact **Angelia Spencer (231-872-0839)** to help, or to host a Sunday!

**If you would like to make cookies for coffee hour,
they can be put in the freezer, and we will use them as needed.**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE TO MARK YOUR COOKIES
“FOR COFFEE HOUR!”**

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Our church has been given the opportunity to join the

**Traverse Area
Summer Games Christian Camp
at Albright Camp and Retreat Center
July 8th through July 13th
For youth in 4th through 10th grades**

We are planning to help with registration costs for campers.

Call Lola Callaghan (832-2432) if you have questions,
or if you have a child who would like to attend.



Easter Flowers

It's Time to Order Easter Flowers

You are encouraged to order tulips, daffodils or lilies to grace our Easter altar. The cost is \$16 per plant. To order, indicate your choice of flower on your offering envelope or check memo area. If you would like your plant to be in honor or in memory of someone, please indicate that with your check, or call the church office (832-9441) with the information.

Please order your flowers by Palm Sunday, April 2nd

A NOTE OF



Dear Friends,

Your prayers, calls, cards and acts of kindness were so appreciated! We are both better from Covid – after three years it found us! We are so thankful for God's healing power! Thank you again for your acts of Christian love and kindness!

*Prayerfully,
Ken and Sally Andrews*

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for the calls, cards and prayers following my hip replacement surgery in January. I'm healing well and walking with a cane. Thanks be to God for all my blessings; for helping me clean out my house and barn and getting my house sold. It's wonderful to be shown so much love.

*In Thanksgiving,
Lois Ingraham*

WinSome Women Retreat

May 4th & 5th or May 5th & 6th

Great Lakes Center for the Arts, Bay Harbor, Michigan

Theme: "Victory in Jesus" "Thanks be to God!

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:57

Contact Carol Posey for additional information



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**We will celebrate UMCOR Sunday
on March 19, 2023**

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR's work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.

Gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) cover UMCOR's costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. *The UMCOR Sunday offering is the primary funding stream for the administrative costs of UMCOR.*

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

To search for specific Global Ministries and Projects where UMCOR is at work, visit the United Methodist Church website www.umc.org or <https://advanceumcor.org> Thank you !

Source: <http://www.umc.org>



Bible Study

**Mondays at 7 pm
at Lola Callaghan's home**

***Entering the Passion of Jesus:
Holy Week for Beginners***

**Thursdays at 10 am
with Pastor Daniel in the Narthex**

FOOD PANTRY ITEM FOR MARCH

BOXES OF CEREAL • REGULAR SIZE BOXES (any variety or brand)

You may place your donations in the hamper in the church narthex.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND, monetary donations are always very welcome.
Monies donated are used to purchase food in bulk quantities at a reduced cost.
You may give through church offerings – please mark your gift “Food Pantry.”

Food Pantry Hours: Tuesdays • 10 am – 1 pm



✝ Our Local Food Pantry
✝ Benevolent Care at
**Clark Retirement Community
in Grand Rapids**



COAT PANTRY CLOSING MARCH 15th

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!

It is preferred that additional donations
are not dropped off until September.
THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING!!

The Good News Just Keeps on Coming!

Continuing in the 'good news' department, our new Worship Team has met recently with Pastor to share ideas and provide input into various aspects of our in-person and online/radio worship experience. There is a strong interest in broadening and renewing our musical experiences in worship, as well. If you have ideas or questions regarding worship, please share them with us. Attending our first meeting were: Pastor Daniel, Brenda & Steve Marsh, Gladys Kooiker, Sally Andrews, John Vanderhoof, Jim C Thompson, Sheri Thompson. Our Lay Leader, Timothy Locker, will also be part of the group.

The good news is that there IS good news! The ultimate good news is that Christ has enlisted us to share HIS good news among our church, within our community, and wherever we encounter needs. We are grateful for the many blessings we enjoy, and we appreciate the opportunities we have to serve. God is good, all of the time! All of the time, God is good!



Some events to put on
your calendar.

More details in the
April Newsletter.

**Community Good Friday Service
at Chase UMC, Noon**

**Community Good Friday Cross Walk, Noon
at the Reed City Depot**

**Easter Morning Breakfast
served by Our Kidz Klub**

Leadership Team Update

The most recent meeting of our church Leadership Team provided some exciting updates and projects, as well as some hard work taking place within the workings of our church in the weeks and months to come. We're glad to share a brief recap with you!

Our Finance Team is hard at work to streamline and update our record keeping and reporting systems, making tracking and budgeting more efficient and helpful. Kudos to this Team for taking the deep dive and setting ambitious goals!

Missions Team is busy with the "Readers to Leaders" program, providing books world-wide to enhance literacy opportunities for children everywhere. They are also working on a local component to the program to implement soon. Our financial contribution to the program will be assisted by a generous donation from our Women's Group and proceeds from Lola Callaghan's cinnamon roll sales on Sunday mornings!

Kidz Klub participants will treat our congregation to an Easter Breakfast at 8:30 on Easter morning, as they focus on the importance of stewardship as Christians. The Kidz are hard at work on plans for the event — adult help (and cooking!) is appreciated. There will be sign-ups on the bulletin board. For more information, contact either Susie Toogood or Linda Stieg.

Pastor Daniel shared news of Holy Week plans, including a Community Good Friday Service at the Chase UMC and the self-paced Cross Walk at the Depot. More information will be available shortly. Pastor also updated us as to the continuing process of our re-districting and potential of changes to the organization of our area church collaborations. More to come in upcoming months — we will be patient and prayerful for our church and all UMCs during this time of discernment.

After almost 4 ½ years without a church custodian, we're pleased to introduce Marty Beemer to our congregation. Marty is the owner of Black Diamond Carpet and Restoration Service in Big Rapids. Marty also provides cleaning services to several local physicians' offices as well as area assisted living facilities. Marty and his helpers will be cleaning mostly during evenings and Saturdays and we're very grateful to have him with us! At present, he's getting to know our building and our needs, and we are developing schedules and routines as he settles in.

If you have any questions or concerns, please connect with Sheri Thompson. As we have budgeted for limited hours with Marty, we will still be relying on volunteer efforts for some seasonal and light cleaning tasks. Please volunteer as you can!

Leadership Team looks forward to full implementation of all our ministry teams in the near future and is excited for our future together as a church family!