

# CONNECTIONS

Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



## Message from the Pastor



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Lent Season**  
2/26-4/11

**Men's Breakfast  
& Bible Study**  
Saturdays 9:30

**Daylight Savings  
Time Begins**  
3/8

**one-eighty  
conference**  
3/19

**Fellowship  
Luncheon**  
3/22

**UMCOR  
Sunday**  
3/22

Each of our three children learned the Heimlich maneuver in school. You probably know what that is. If someone is choking, you get behind them; you do the magic squeeze to dislodge whatever they're choking on, and it keeps them from choking to death.

Can you imagine being in a restaurant and seeing someone choking on a piece of food? You stand up immediately and, "Is there a throat specialist in the house? We need throat specialist right now!" There is none there, so you say, "Well, I guess we will have to take him to the hospital."

As he's choking and turning several shades of colors, you get him in your car and you drive him to the hospital. By the time you get him to the specialist, the person who knows the most about it, it's probably going to be too late. Tragically, a lot of us are making that same mistake with someone's spiritual survival. Instead of treating them where they are, we keep waiting until they get to the specialist.

Dear Friends,

Years ago in another church, my spouse, Susan, organized an Infant CPR course for the community. The thing about CPR is that it is something that you have to do in an emergency. You can't call a respiratory therapist or an EMT for an appointment or to come to the scene. CPR is something someone has to do immediately. It can't be put off for fifteen or twenty minutes while you drive to a hospital.

In 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 it says that "God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

Paul is saying that the rescuing - the life saving - of people who don't know Christ isn't in the hands of some religious professionals. It's in our hands. If someone has stopped breathing, you need to know how to rescue them.

With Christ as our center, we are His extended family, compassionately sharing Jesus' love with all people. Our congregation is on a lifelong journey of discipleship to become more like Christ.

# Prayers and Praise



## PRAYER requests

### In the Hospital

#### Please remember those in Continuing Care Facilities

Luanne Genga  
Novi Lakes Health Campus

Bobbie Winters  
Superior Woods

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Stephanie Boltrick  
Daughter of Nancy Boltrick

Christopher Stone  
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

Michael Stone  
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

Blake  
Grandson of Betty Hughey

Jared Stabnau  
Grandson of Harvey & Elaine Stabnau

Cody Ford-Aimone  
Grandson of Mike & Lynda Aimone

Justin Renton  
Grandson of Donna Sweeney

Chad Koenne  
Grandson of Dick & Lila Timm

## MARCH Birthdays

|           |               |    |         |            |    |
|-----------|---------------|----|---------|------------|----|
| Lisa      | Thetford      | 1  | Allison | Moyer      | 18 |
| Bryce     | Girbach       | 3  | Scott   | Zechiel    | 18 |
| Betty     | Hughey        | 3  | Sue     | Altobello  | 18 |
| Kelley    | Anderson      | 3  | Skyila  | Shuryan    | 19 |
| Jaelyn    | Decker        | 3  | Craig   | Lechlitner | 21 |
| Marj      | Priest        | 4  | Vincent | Richardson | 21 |
| Marlayna  | Keelan        | 4  | Lee     | Robson     | 21 |
| Bobby     | Goike         | 5  | Steven  | Altobello  | 21 |
| Alexander | Jones         | 5  | Karen   | Carlson    | 23 |
| Mike      | Moyer         | 6  | Scott   | Shephard   | 23 |
| Rachel    | Murray        | 6  | Donna   | Sienko     | 24 |
| Joann     | Hoover-Begley | 9  | Dawn    | Yargeau    | 25 |
| Mike      | McCrary       | 10 | Joy     | Dubin      | 25 |
| Yetta     | Reges         | 10 | Gabriel | Baynesan   | 27 |
| Diane     | Dzierbicki    | 10 | Eunice  | Kause      | 28 |
| Micky     | Keelan        | 12 | Leonard | Armstrong  | 29 |
| Rhonda    | Cerone        | 13 | Cheryl  | Wagner     | 29 |
| Brooklyn  | Clark         | 13 | Ed      | Paris      | 29 |
| Rick      | Speare        | 14 | Eula    | Nurnberger | 30 |
| Emma      | Fleming       | 16 | Cristal | Moyer      | 30 |
| Sharon    | Richardson    | 16 | Cindy   | Hayes      | 30 |
| Laura     | Kirchoff      | 17 | Michael | Boelter    | 31 |

## MARCH Anniversaries

|                 |          |    |
|-----------------|----------|----|
| Bob & Joannie   | Payne    | 5  |
| Brian & Cathy   | Andrews  | 10 |
| Ralph & Arlene  | Bird     | 15 |
| Bob & Carol     | Schank   | 17 |
| Bryan & Anne    | Girbach  | 25 |
| David & Minette | Brownlee | 26 |

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There's no time to get them to anyone else. The rescue's in your hands because you're there; you're close. You have to bring the help to the person, not wait for the person to come to the help.

You can't delegate spiritual life saving either. There's someone you know right now who needs your Jesus. You know Him; they don't. They need to know that what happened on the cross was for them. I know, when you get to heaven, are going to want to see that they're going to be there with you?

Would you begin right now to pray by name for that person you care about at work, in your neighborhood, wherever it is? Pray specifically for an opening where you can extend some spiritual CPR on the spot. Say, "Lord, I know it's not up to some evangelist. It's not up to the church. It's not up to getting a Christian book in their hands. It's up to me, my body, my flesh, my life, my smile, my voice to share what Christ has done."

Learn to pray on a daily basis that wonderful three-open prayer, "Lord, open a door." Which means, Lord, give me a natural opportunity to bring up my relationship with you; something going on in their life, or my life, or in the world. And then, "Lord, open their heart." Lord, get them ready for this. And then, "Lord, open my mouth." Give me the words; give me the approach, give me the courage. "Lord, open a door. Lord, open their heart. Lord, open my mouth." Because I understand I've been placed in their life. I'm the one to deliver your Good News.

You have more influence on that person than any Christian persuader could ever have - any specialist. You're in their life. Don't wait for the specialist to tell them. The rescue is up to you.

Blessings,

*Jim*

Rev. Jim Walker

# March 8<sup>th</sup>



# Men's Breakfast and Group Study



**March Saturdays During Lent  
9:30-11:00 In the Lounge**



## Easter Flower Orders:

Orders for Easter flowers will be accepted every Sunday from **March 15th thru April 5th**. See Micky Keelan in the Narthex with your order before and after worship services. More details forthcoming.



**Wednesday, February 26, 2020 (Ash Wednesday)  
to Saturday, April 11, 2020**



**Thursday, March 19, 2020 – 8:30 -4:30 pm**  
Redeemer United Methodist Church – Dewitt, MI

**Payment:**

*Cost of Conference:* \$49.00 (per person) through **Thursday, March 5**  
\$59.00 (per person) after **Thursday, March 5**  
- Lunch included-

*Group Rate:* \$25 for ea. add'l person from same church through March 5  
\$30 for ea. add'l person from same church after March 5  
- No refunds after **Tuesday, March 10th**. Transfer of registration is allowed.

Please complete one registration form for each person attending.  
Registration forms are available in the church office.



***Sunday, March 22nd***  
following 10:30am service

***Tickets:*** \$8:00 Adults; \$5.00  
Children ages 7-12; Under 6 Free

**Menu:**  
Chicken & Smoked Kielbasa with  
Red Skinned Potatoes  
***Lunch & Fellowship!***

***Tickets on sale beginning Sunday  
March 1st!***

## March 22<sup>nd</sup> is UMCOR Sunday



When you give on UMCOR Sunday, you help cover the annual operational costs for UMCOR. Your gift allows UMCOR to apply 100% of other donations directly to relief efforts as well as long-term education and support. Will you consider giving as generously as you can on March 22?

**TOGETHER, WE DO MORE.**

## *Save the Date – May 9!*

The Emergency Food Closet's largest food fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 9th. This is the U.S. Postal Letter Carriers' **"STAMP OUT HUNGER"** national food drive. Please save the date on your calendar for many hands are needed to help with this effort.

You can participate in many ways: run food from the Post Office to the church; sort and check dates of delivered food; box items; and help with storage. Help will be needed **from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on May 9 and we will finish on Monday, May 11.** Last year we received over 11,000 pounds of food! Grab a few friends, family members, or co-workers and donate any time you can give.

You can also support your mail carrier by leaving a bag of non-expired, non-perishable food at your mailbox on Saturday, May 9. Suggested items are: canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned soup, cereal, boxed mac & cheese, canned spaghetti/ravioli, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, canned chili, canned sloppy joe, canned tuna & chicken, rice-a-roni, peanut butter, jelly (plastic), personal care products, dish soap, and laundry detergent.

Your donations stock the shelves of our Emergency Food Closet to help our community neighbors!



March Food Closet Item of the Month: Canned Fruit





## Pastor Jim's Retirement

For 13 years now, the Walker family has played an integral role in the life of Belleville FUMC. With Pastor Jim's impending retirement this summer, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee has set aside a time to join together, celebrate, and thank Pastor Jim and Susan for sharing their family, their ministry, their witness, and their steadfast care with our congregation for all these years.

Please save the date of **Saturday, June 6, 2020, 1:00-3:30 p.m.** to gather as a congregation and send the Walkers off into the next chapter of their lives.

Look for additional details in the May newsletter.



# Events & Activities



# 2020

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri | Sat   |
|---|--|--|---|--|-----|---|
| 1<br>9 a.m. Worship<br>9 a.m. Children's SS Classes<br>10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH)<br>10:30 a.m. Worship<br>10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class<br>6:00 p.m. Youth Group (YR)  | 2<br>7pm Comm Chorus (S)                               | 3<br>6 p.m. Christian Ed Comm Mtg (AR)<br>7 pm Ad Council (AR) | 4<br>10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L)<br>7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)  | 5<br>10 a.m. AA (FH)<br>6 p.m. Praise Band Prac<br>6:30 pm Bible Study (L)<br>7:30 p.m. Choir Prac.<br>8 p.m. AA (FH)  | 6   | 7<br>8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom)<br>9 am Gamblers Anon (AR)<br>9 am Men's Breakfast & Study (L)   |
| 8 <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b><br>9 a.m. Worship<br>9 a.m. Children's SS Classes<br>10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH)<br>10:30 a.m. Worship<br>10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class<br>12 Noon Worship Comm Mtg (L)<br>6 pm Youth Group (YR) | 9<br>7pm Comm Chorus (S)                               | 10<br>7pm SPRC (L)   | 11<br>10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L)<br>7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR) | 12<br>10 a.m. AA (FH)<br>6 p.m. Praise Band Prac<br>6:30 pm Bible Study (L)<br>7:30 p.m. Choir Prac.<br>8 p.m. AA (FH) | 13  | 14<br>8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom)<br>9 am Gamblers Anon (AR)<br>9 am Men's Breakfast & Study (L)  |
| 15<br>9 a.m. Worship<br>9 a.m. Children's SS Classes<br>10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH)<br>10:30 a.m. Worship<br>10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class<br>12:00 p.m. Finance Comm Mtg (L)<br>6:00 p.m. Youth Group (YR)                            | 16<br>7pm Comm Chorus (S)<br>7pm Garden Club (FH)      | 17   | 18<br>10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L)<br>7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR) | 19<br>10 a.m. AA (FH)<br>6 p.m. Praise Band Prac<br>6:30 pm Bible Study (L)<br>7:30 p.m. Choir Prac.<br>8 p.m. AA (FH) | 20  | 21<br>8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom)<br>9 am Gamblers Anon (AR)<br>9 am Men's Breakfast & Study (L)  |
| 22 <b>UMCOR Sunday</b><br>9 a.m. Worship<br>9 a.m. Children's SS Classes<br>10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH)<br>10:30 a.m. Worship<br>10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class<br>11:45 a.m. Fellowship Luncheon<br>6pm Youth Group (YR)               | 23<br>7pm Comm Chorus (S)                              | 24<br>7 pm Missions (L)  | 25<br>10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L)<br>7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR) | 26<br>10 a.m. AA (FH)<br>6 p.m. Praise Band Prac<br>6:30 pm Bible Study (L)<br>7:30 p.m. Choir Prac.<br>8 p.m. AA (FH) | 27  | 28<br>8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom)<br>9 am Gamblers Anon ((AR)<br>9 am Men's Breakfast & Study (L) |
| 29<br>9 a.m. Worship<br>9 a.m. Children's SS Classes<br>10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH)<br>10:30 a.m. Worship<br>10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class<br>6pm Youth Group (YR)   | 30<br>6 p.m. Trustee's Mtg (AR)<br>7pm Comm Chorus (S) | 31   | <b>Food Closet Item: Canned Fruit</b>                             |  |     |   |