



Centenary United Methodist Church

PO Box 111

82 S. Hancock St.

Pentwater, MI 49449

The Circuit Rider

MAY 2024



Centenary United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Vaughn W. Thurston-Cox, Pastor



Church Office: (231) 869-5900

Office Hours: Mon - Thur, 9am - 12pm

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Facebook.com/5H20centenaryumc



Scan to connect to
CUMC Facebook news

Our Vision: To be the Breath of God in Community

Our Values: Loving God, Serving Others, Welcoming All

Circuit Rider



The Pastor's Pen

Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox

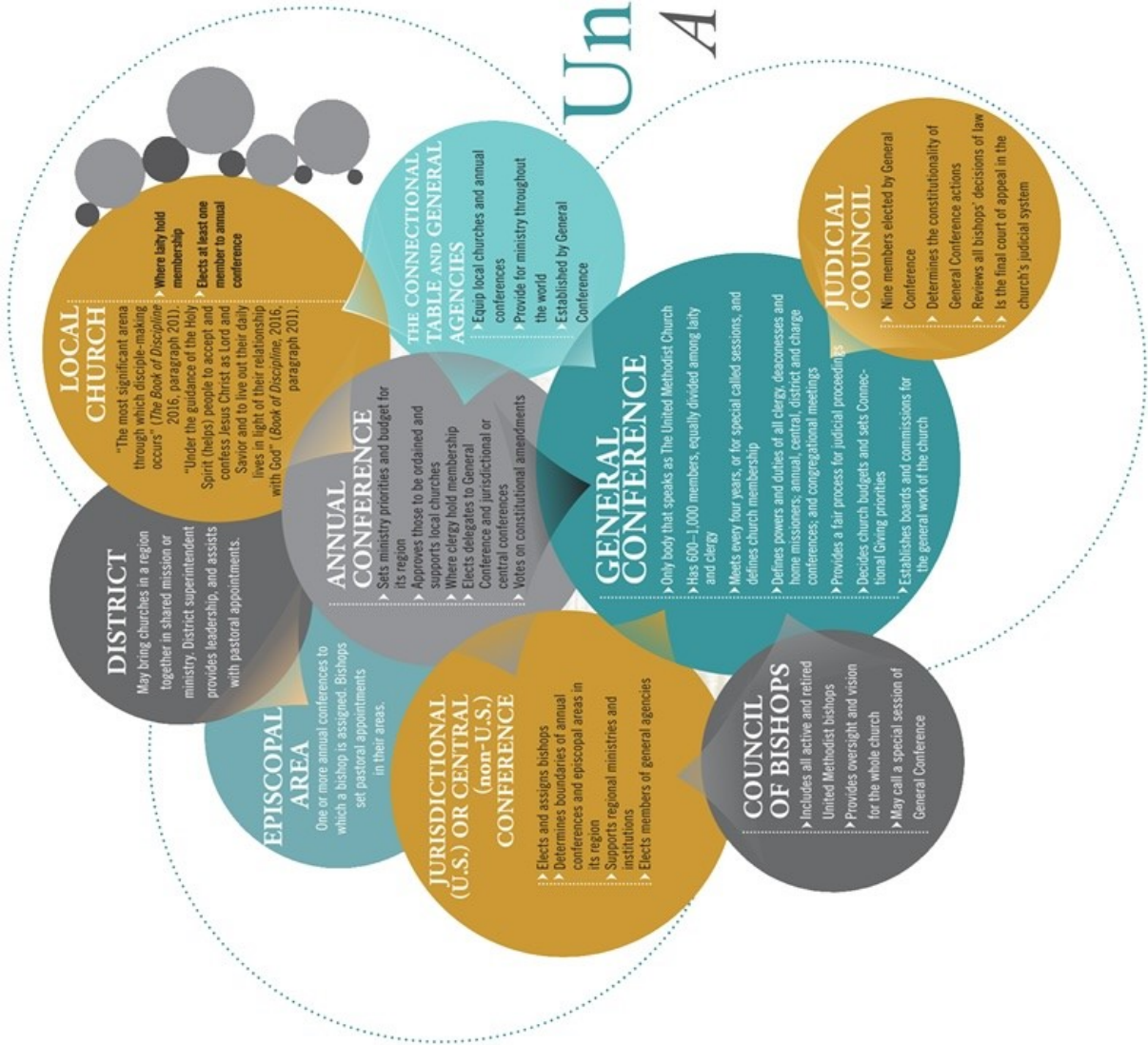
I never get tired reading the words of First John. It begins by celebrating a spiritual life rooted in personal experience: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched —this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.” God isn’t philosophical abstraction or simply the tradition handed down to them by their parents. It is experience rooted in encounter with the Holy come to us in Jesus Christ. Then author turns outward,

“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.” In short, our life with God spills over into contagious joy, which looks like different kinds of things. For some people this year it has been taking time to drive one of our people north to Manistee for medical appointments. For others it’s been leading small groups that break open Scripture. I see it each week in the faces of those who play and sing in worship. It isn’t performance. It is joy spilling over, inviting us to be in joy with them. I share my contagious joy when I talk to others about the kind of church Centenary is with others, where we do not always think alike but we work to love alike.

As we pass through Spring into summer, I invite you to become contagious. Let the light and warmth of the sun soak into your soul, and share that light and warmth with others who may be new to Pentwater or just looking for a place to belong. This is a good place, too, to remember that contagious joy means we become cheerleaders for each other, not because we always agree, or because we always do things the very same way, but because we see the gifts God has for us in each other. Receive the gifts God has for you in your neighbor and give thanks for them.

The Worship Team is working hard. We are almost at the end of the Easter season and our series on the parables, which I’ve really enjoyed. This week is very special. Pastor Roy Martens will be teaching on the Parable of the Wheat and Tares before leading us into the celebration of Communion. In the following weeks we will celebrate the Ascension of Christ to the Father with a reflection on his last words to us as his disciples, then Pentecost, and finally Trinity Sunday,

United Methodists: A Connected Church



The Pastor's Pen *continued from page 2*

which holds a special place in my heart. Our summer series, *At the Water's Edge*, traces the movement of water through our faith story, from its beginning in creation to the River of Life found in Revelation. We worship a God whose love flows through water. I think we'll have to celebrate our baptisms with a little water from the Jordan.

Even while we do that, the Worship Team is trying to take a little time to reflect on our work with you, and how we engage the congregation in worship. Please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Vaughn or Marsha with your input about making more room in our service for everyone to take an active part. If you'd like to join the team, please do. We're especially in need of people with a creative eye or insight into nurturing a virtual worship community.

I've had some questions about General Conference and responded to them in other newsletters. It began last week, with most of its work in legislative committees, which essentially filter petitions for the full membership. Repetitive motions are often bundled or a single one is chosen to stand in for all of them. Those petitions that pass legislative committee with a very high threshold (somewhere around 90%+) are placed on the consent calendar and will not require a vote by the full conference unless a member requests a vote. Other pieces may be passed on to vote with recommendation from the committee. Some die there. This year our delegates were asked to sift through a little over 1,000 proposals. Some pieces of legislation will not only require a supermajority vote at General Conference but a super majority of the vote taken across all annual conference in the world. In any case, you can expect a summary of important actions taken within two weeks of its end.

I've included a couple of info-graphics. The graphic on page 3 gives you a nice overview of all the pieces that make up our church. The second graphic on page 5 shows the General Conference and its makeup.

Be the Breath,
Pastor Vaughn

GENERAL CONFERENCE: BY THE NUMBERS

The Postponed 2020
General Conference will
take place April 23-May 3 2024
in Charlotte, North Carolina

133

annual conferences
represented



862 voting delegates,
half clergy and half laypeople

1,099

valid petitions submitted



Delegates:

55.9% from the U.S.
32% from Africa
6% from the Philippines
4.6% from Europe



5 continents represented

26

plenary sessions



18
worship
services



**4 official written
languages:**
English, French,
Kiswahili and
Portuguese



14
legislative
committees

9

special addresses
and celebrations

10 languages spoken
via interpreters on site



Learn more about General Conference at
ResourceUMC.org/UMCGC

...and KNOW that I am GOD

The United Methodist Church General Conference | CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Quiet Corner - Thoughts & Poems for a Praying Community

Listening and Letting Go

To be listened to is a need we all have; but it is also a gift we give. Learning to listen involves a paradox of self-control: controlling yourself and letting go of control over the relationship. It's like letting someone else drive. To listen, you have to let go. Nature has much to teach us about the art of listening. It's springtime—go out and listen to your heart's content. Feel God's creative presence everywhere. God is in the silence, too. Can you weave a nest of listening, a nest of silence, like the phoebe?

Beyond the Question, 1 by May Sarton

The phoebe sits on her nest
Hour after hour,
Day after day,
Waiting for life to burst out
From under her warmth.

Can I weave a nest for silence,
Weave it out of listening,
Listening,
Layer upon layer?
But one must first become small,



Nothing but a presence,
Attentive as a nesting bird,
Proffering no slightest wish,
No tendril of a wish
Toward anything that might happen
Or be given,
Only the warm, faithful waiting,
Contained in one's silence.

Beyond the question, the silence.
Before the answer, the silence.

From Emily Dickinson—"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul."

It felt like God's grace and I helped to rescue a bird last week that looked much like a young phoebe. Picking up the floundering bird from the front step after it had hit the window twice, I gave it some water from a small syringe, held it gently, stroked its back and gave it a kiss and a blessing of hope. I then placed it on a rock of the same color as its soft brown feathers while it recovered. An hour later, I went outside and asked: "How are you doing little bird?"— and it flew up and away.

With appreciation to my sweet mother-in-law, Doris Lyon, who taught me how to rescue birds in distress. - Sandy Lyon

Treasurer's Quarterly Report January - March 2024

We had a pretty good first quarter. We had budgeted to lose just over \$10,000 and only lost \$1000, well done to our givers! The finance and operations (F&O) decided to invest some of our savings (rainy day fund) into CD's so that we could earn a little cash. Our insurance cost went up providing a little better coverage and an increase in the value of church and parsonage. We have an old/new committee reforming, currently called Endowment/Planned Giving, and they will be looking at our investment with the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. Our funds are at \$211,723 with a mix of endowment, designated, undesignated and earnings. We had a financial review done for 2022, see Janet's article for what came out of that. Remember the monthly financials are posted on the wall just outside of office. If you have any questions, please give Janet or myself a call or catch me at church.

Once again thanks for making my job easier by being great givers of your time and talents.

John Faas, Treasurer faasjo@yahoo.com, 517-214-9667

The Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church requires that congregations of our size have an annual financial review of the records of this church. This had not been done for many years. The Finance and Operations Committee, with the approval of the Church Council hired an outside bookkeeper and church treasurer, recommended by the Conference, who has just finished her review of the 2022 records. While many of the items on her check list were being followed, she did point out a few weaknesses. Several of these have already been addressed and corrected. Some are difficult for a congregation of our size to follow and would require several more regular volunteers.



One of our biggest weaknesses is the approval of expenditures. We need your help to accomplish this. Whenever an expense is presented for payment, an Expense Authorization Form, available in the church office, must be completed and signed by both the requestor and by the appropriate ministry team leader. An invoice or receipt must be included with the form. Requests that do not follow these requirements will be returned for completion before payment can be made. After Council's approval, the same bookkeeper will be hired to do a review of the 2023 financial records.

If you have questions, please contact either John or myself.

Janet Waidelich, Assistant Treasurer jewaidelich@gmail.com, 858-774-1511

From your Community Dinner coordinators

We're coming to the end of another year of Community Dinner! As our name suggests, it takes a community to serve dinner each week. We have cooks and dining room preparers and servers and dishwashers and label creators; and a whole crew of bakers who contribute homemade desserts; and others who work remotely, from their winter residences, organizing volunteer schedules and providing an inspirational message each week. We couldn't do this labor of love, serving over 180 meals per week, without all of our volunteers.

Our outreach this year has focused on offering frozen individual meals. Since early January when we began promoting the availability of frozen meals within our church and to organizations in Oceana County, this ministry has provided, on average, 23 meals a week. With a small group of volunteers cooking once per month, we plan to stock the freezer throughout the summer.

Our last Community Dinner this Spring is May 15th. You may have heard about the eggplant donation. As "Cooks' Choice" we'll be serving some of it in a classic dish with a tasty twist: Ratatouille and Sausage Potpie accompanied by soup, salad and dessert. We hope you can join us!

Peggy Crum and Elaine Konyha

Community Dinner Menus For May*

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 1 | Enchiladas
Mexican Rice
Marinated Vegetable Salad
Green Chile Soup or
Tortilla Soup Monteray
Delicious Donated Desserts |
| May 8 | Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Oven Roasted Asparagus
Applesauce
Muligatawny Soup
Delicious Donated Desserts |
| May 15 | Ratatouille and Sausage Pot Pie with
Corned Biscuit
Delicious Donated Desserts |



**Have a wonderful
Summer!**

* Menus may change based on availability of food.
[Click here](#) for the current week's menu.

Prayers & Squares - 100th Quilt Given!

“To make art is to make love with the sacred.” - Mirabai Starr

“The mystery is Christ within you, your hope of glory.” - Colossians 1:27

Prayers & Squares is a unique ministry. In preparing for the Ministry Workshop that was held at the end of April at CUCM, I began taking a close look at what our ministry is about. I thought about the original mission. I wondered if and how we lived that vision with integrity. I mused about the ways we were inspired to add to the original vision. Most importantly, I was struck by how all of us who participate have been transformed through witnessing its impact...and by discovering the depth of caring we hold for one another.

One of the elements of our uniqueness is in the artistry of our quilts. Making art allows the artist to lose her/himself in the artistic expression itself...inviting the Divine to ‘have its way with it’. Although making a quilt requires some precision and skill...as well as, in most cases, the decision to follow a pattern... we are always delighted by the final outcome! And, the anticipation of the recipient’s response cannot be measured or determined beforehand. It’s a holy moment.

While reading one morning I came across an excerpt that felt true. The writer used the term “spiritual practice” but I’m going to substitute the term “spiritual ministry” as I believe the terms overlap. The writer indicated that all (spiritual ministries) have the purpose of allowing us “to touch the depths of our inner selves and to live a generous life of participation with Divine Love in absolute wholeheartedness... and to move from what we know in our heads about God to living and moving and having our being in God” (Felicia Murell). In other words, we become living expressions of God! In our ‘acts of creation’ (the quilts) we become living aspects of our Creator. In the act of giving comfort and hope to the recipients of our quilts we become ambassadors of Christ.

Speaking of providing comfort and hope, we will be giving our 100th (!!) prayer quilt to Judy Koorndyke. Judy suffered a massive stroke this month and is currently in Mary Freebed undergoing rehab. She is a member of the First Baptist Church in Pentwater where her husband, Bruce, serves as a deacon. We are also working on two additional prayer quilt requests as well as working hard on our Pocket Quilt production.

The pocket squares are proving to be quite popular!

In closing, I would like to encourage you to bask in appreciation of May’s ‘pop’ of color as the flowers burst forth and remind us of God’s artistry. The promise of sunny days and warmer temperatures make my heart sing!

Enjoy...and be blessed,

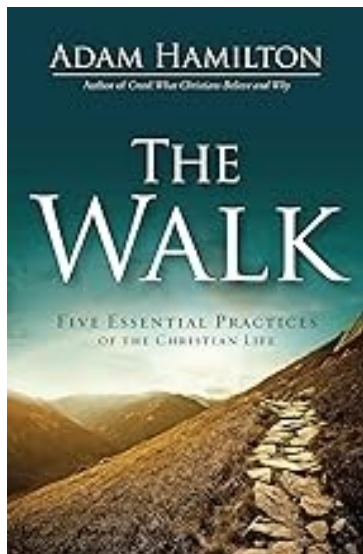
Carrie Roberts



Prayers & Squares Team with Judy Koorndyke’s Quilt.

Grow with Centenary

This summer Rev. Dr. Blaine Rader will lead a small group study focused on spiritual growth through prayer, reflection, service, giving, and other Christian disciplines. We'll meet Wednesday at 7 pm from July 10 through August 14. Come to any or all of the sessions! We'll be using Adam Hamilton's *The Walk*, which you can find on Amazon.



From the back cover: "In *The Walk*, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

"In each chapter, Hamilton explores one of these practices, its New Testament foundation, and what it looks like to pursue this practice daily in our personal life and together in the life of the church. Deepen your walk with Christ as we explore the five essential practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to our faith."



Church Workday May 11, 9 am

We have several small projects and could use a variety of help, inside and outside. It's a fun productive morning, please join us!



*Property Management
Team*

Month of May 2024 at a Glance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:15am - Small Group -</p> <p>10:30am - Worship @</p> <p>11:30am - Fellowship Time</p>	<p>10am - Senior Stretch @</p> <p>2pm - Meditation Group @</p>	<p>9am - Community Dinner</p> <p>10:30am - Prog Coord'n</p> <p>11am - Garden Club Cups of</p> <p>6:30pm - euchre @ Wesley</p>	<p>9am - Community Dinner</p> <p>5pm - Community Dinner</p> <p>6:30pm - Bell Choir @ Music</p> <p>6:30pm - Property</p>	<p>9am - Frozen Meals</p> <p>10am - Senior Stretch @</p> <p>7pm - Jr. Women's Club @</p>	<p>10am - Prayers Squares @</p>	<p>9am - Church Workday</p> <p>3pm - Ron Hamelen</p>
<p>9:15am - Small Group -</p> <p>10:30am - Worship @</p> <p>11:30am - Fellowship Time</p>	<p>10am - Senior Stretch @</p> <p>10:30am - Finance & Op's</p>	<p>9am - Community Dinner</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Team @</p> <p>6:30pm - Euchre @ Wesley</p>	<p>9am - Community Dinner</p> <p>5pm - Community Dinner</p> <p>6:30pm - Bell Choir @ Music</p>	<p>9am - Frozen Meals</p> <p>10am - Senior Stretch @</p> <p>10am - Service Club @</p>	<p>8:30am - Student Workday</p> <p>10am - Prayers Squares @</p>	
<p>9:15am - Small Group -</p> <p>10:30am - Worship @</p> <p>11:30am - Informational</p>	<p>10am - Senior Stretch @</p> <p>2pm - Meditation Group @</p> <p>6:30pm - Pentwater Lake</p> <p>7pm - West Michigan SAIL @</p>	<p>6pm - Church Council @</p> <p>6pm - Council Zoom Link @</p> <p>6:30pm - euchre @</p>	<p>6:30pm - Bell Choir @ Music</p>	<p>10am - Senior Stretch @</p> <p>10am - Service Club @</p>	<p>10am - Prayers Squares @</p>	
<p>9:15am - Small Group -</p> <p>10:30am - Worship @</p> <p>11:30am - Fellowship Time</p>	<p>Office Closed for Memorial</p>	<p>Circuit Rider Articles Due</p> <p>6:30pm - euchre @ Wesley</p>	<p>Michigan UMC Conference @</p>	<p>Michigan UMC Conference @</p> <p>9am - Frozen Meals</p>	<p>Michigan UMC Conference @</p> <p>10am - Prayers Squares @</p>	

For the most up to date schedule and details, go to pentwaterumc.org/calendar

Church Council Meeting Minutes - April 16, 2024

In Attendance: Susan MacGregor, Mat Hacker, Beth Russell, Bart Zachrich, Elaine Konyha, Anne Soles, Sandy Lyon, Elaine Curtis, John Faas as Treasurer and George Van Scoyoc via Zoom

The meeting was called to order with a prayer from Bart Zachrich at 6:00 PM.

The agenda was presented and approved with no additions.

Minutes from last month were presented and approved with no additions.

Minute on Leadership – Beth Russell

There is Grace (getting something you don't deserve) and there is Mercy (not getting something that you do deserve) and they are tied together with Compassion.

The next Minute on Leadership will be Anne Soles followed by Susan MacGregor

John Faas presented the 1st quarter of the annual budget. Traditionally the 1st quarter has been the lowest income quarter and this year we are very close to budget.

John then presented the 2022 Financial Review conducted by Smeeta Thompson. The church had not had a review in several years, so this review took multiple months to complete. John presented the recommendations she made and discussed how these were being (or had been) implemented. The Book of Discipline recommends that this review be conducted annually.

MOTION: The Council authorizes a 2023 Financial Review by Ms. Thompson. Next year we will reassess the need for an annual review.

Made by: Anne Soles

Seconded: George Van Scoyoc

VOTE: approved unanimously.

Mat Hacker presented the Emergency Action Plan with no changes from the previous presentation.

MOTION: The Council adopt the Emergency Action Plan of January 17, 2024, as a working guideline.

Made by Anne Soles

Seconded by Beth Russell

VOTE: approved unanimously

Ministry Workshop Saturday, April 20, 2024, 9:00-12:30.

The Council reviewed the plan for this meeting. Emphasis on bringing a copy of last year's goals to the meeting.

UMC General Conference is coming up April 23 through May 3. One of the goals of the Church Council is to communicate with the general congregation about events that happen in Council meetings and in the

April Council Meeting Minutes - continued

church at large. After the General Conference Vaughn will prepare a summary of the events and on May 19th we will have a church discussion after service in the fellowship hall. The Michigan Annual Conference will be held at the end of May beginning of June.

The Council discussed and agreed that when Bart gives his report to the congregation next Sunday that he include:

The What, When and Where of the General Conference.

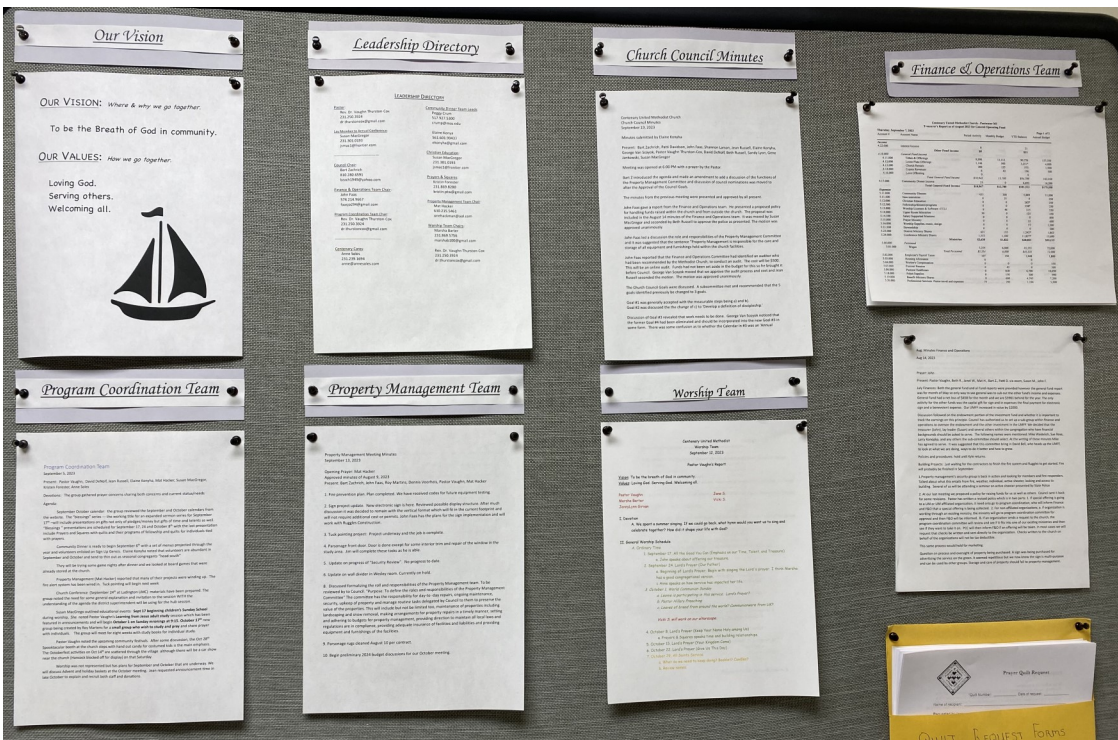
Mention that there is a website that anyone can access during the conference to find out what is happening.

Ask people to be patient and not leap to conclusions based on media presentations. Time will be needed to process what the General Conference does and how this will affect a small church in Michigan.

An article was handed out, "How Do We Pray when we are Divided". Council Members are asked to read this before the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 7:15 PM

Next meeting will be May 21, 2024



Are you interested in a specific ministry or the work of our church. Minutes for our Church Council, Finance & Operations, Worship, Program Coordination, and Property Management Teams are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. You can also request a copy of minutes at the church office.



Friends & Family of Troy Moran
(Hart High School Principal)
Tiffany O’Connell (family of Barb Siok)

Chance, Anna & newborn Izzy
(Helms family)
Dan Kelly (Recovery from surgery)
Ken Wagner (Heart Attack)
Louise Sanford (Diane Sanford’s
mother in hospice)
Richard Bieri (Nancy DeNolf’s father)

Cancer Treatments

Glenn Klomp
Jennifer Siok (family of Barb Siok)
Paula Highland (friend of Shannon Larson)
Savannah (Girvan’s Niece, diagnosed with colon cancer)
Susan Defrites (friend of Judy Claiborne)
Jeff Klein (Cook at Good Stuffs. Doing well post surgery.
Receiving chemo.)
Ronda Hamelen Jenkins
Cindy Williams
Dale Trierweiler (responding well to treatment)
Richard Wild

*Names will remain on the list for four weeks and they can be resubmitted.
Please submit updates or corrections to the Pastor*

**Help Us Grow:
Give Electronically**

Electronic gifts are fast and secure, and they reduce administrative costs, allowing more of every dollar to fund the important work we are called to do.

- Give anytime, anywhere to your favorite funds
- Schedule and manage recurring donations
- Make one-time donations to special appeals
- Pay for events, programs and other activities

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website or contact the church office.



Birthdays

Earleen Barber	05/05
Don Palmer	05/07
Vicki Spear	05/07
Dan Girvan	05/20
Linda Hundt-Trierweiler	05/20
Marilyn Cluchey	05/23
Elaine Curtis	05/26
Barb Pell	05/28



Anniversaries

Terry & Marilyn Cluchey	05/07
Bill & Robin Haggard	05/07



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GIVE PLUS⁺

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