

GraceNotes

The Newsletter of

The United Methodist Church of Manton

Church phone: (231) 824-3593

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Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9-Noon, Thursday 9-11 am.

August/ September 2019

Pastor Jeff's Jottings

Six down, fourteen to go!! I just finished my sixth class in my Course of Study. Thank you to each of you for your support and your patience with me when I get in crunch time writing my papers.

The class that I just finished up is by far the most insightful and valuable class I have taken yet. So important that I decided I am going to do a sermon series on one of the texts that was required for the course. The name of the class was Spiritual Formation and Discipleship. Christ called us to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19) The focus of this class was how we, individually and as the church, can best accomplish this calling.

The text I will be using is called *Soul Feast* by Marjorie Thompson. The book's subtitle is *An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*. Anyone can say that they believe in Christ and call themselves Christian. But how do you prove it by the way you live your daily life? It's not the conversion we are most interested in, it's the transformation of lives.

Beginning on August 25 and continuing for nine weeks, I will guide you in developing your own "Rule of Life." We will look at topics such as spiritual reading, prayer, worship, sabbath, fasting, self-examination, spiritual direction, and hospitality. How do we use these disciplines to become true disciples of Jesus Christ? Can we live them out in our everyday lives? How will they help lead us to our true salvation?

Also, small group studies that took a summer break will resume on September 8 and 9. Even if you were not a part of the original study of Ephesians, you are welcome to join either one of these classes. The Sunday group meets at 6:00pm and the Monday group at 7:00pm. Please make a note of these dates and times.

I am also considering offering another membership class this fall. If you are interested in learning more about the church and possibly becoming a member, please sign up or contact me for more information.

Blessings on each of you!

Pastor Jeff

Ladies Birthday Luncheon

Ladies Birthday Luncheon will be August 15 at 12 noon at the Northside here in Manton.

Our Praise Band is on the Road

Our praise band received a certificate of appreciation for performing at Anita's Farewell Event. Kudo's to our band. They are awesome!

In July they performed at **Northern Exposure Campground in Mesick**. They have another performance (gig) at the same campground on **August 20 at 6 pm**.

Carnival Worker's Dinner???

Will there be a spaghetti dinner for the carnival workers this year? If so, who's in charge? Volunteers are also needed. The dinner is usually Thursday August 29 at 6 pm.

Book Sale and Basket Auction

Our annual Book Sale and Basket Auction is set for **August 30, 31 and September 2**. Proceeds are going to our ABC Shoe and Boot Ministry. Volunteers are needed for set up on Thursday evening and packing up on Labor Day. Volunteers will also be needed during the sale. A sign-up sheet will be available with the time slots. It's usually posted on the bulletin board. Bring your donations in the week of August 25. Our contact person is Stephanie Wolke.



Like to sing? Join us for choir rehearsal. We sing the first three (or four) Sunday's of the month and have the last Sunday off. The sopranos sing the melody but if Six down, fourteen to go you like to harmonize, we have alto, tenor and bass sections to complement all of our music. It's free! It's fun and the selections of music are beautiful! Even if you can't read music you can follow along with the other choir members. Our first rehearsal is **September 4 at 7 pm in the sanctuary**. Feel free to join us.

Mobile Food Pantry

The Mobile Food Pantry will be at Living Word Church on **September 7**. Registration is at 9 am and food distribution is at 10 am. Line up on Railroad Avenue after you register. As always, volunteers are needed and should be there at 9 am.



Ad Council Minutes for June 25, 2019

PRESENT: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston, Bob Swanson, Terri Swanson, Cheryl Peterson, Sandra Moffit, Jessica VanderBrook, Diane Siddall, Liz Dykgraff, Noelle Wallace, Jane Fleming, and Ruth Ann Ward

Lighting of the Candle: After the lighting of the candle, the meeting was opened with prayer.

May 28, 2019, meeting minutes were distributed, read by council members, voted on and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION: Liz has scheduled the Vacation Bible School for July 28, 29, and 30, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The programs will be musically based. There will also be games for the children. Ruth is providing snacks.

TRUSTEES: Nothing new reported.

MEMORIAL: Jessica reports that \$100 is need for the front memorial garden.

ENDOWMENT: Nothing new reported.

STEWARDSHIP: Nothing new reported.

MISSION AND OUTREACH: Diane and Char have been focusing on the extra basket offerings to benefit local organizations.

WORSHIP: Terri discussed transferring the responsibility of handing out the third-grade bibles back to the education committee. There was also a discussion on how to get those third graders to open those bibles and use them.

STAFF PARISH: Nothing new reported.

FINANCE: Noelle distributed the church's balance sheet, and it was accepted as presented.

Noelle reports the church's income for May was \$7285.00, and the church's expenses were \$8498.93. The church's total shortfall for 2019, has now grown to (\$8496.48). Cheryl spoke on this issue further. She also discussed ways that the church can establish direct deposits for church offerings.

Noelle stated that the General Fund, the Memorial Fund, and the Building Fund accounts will be amended to have Noelle Wallace, Cheryl Peterson, Kim Polzin and Terri Swanson on all three of the accounts.

OTHER BUSINESS: Sandi offered to host a swimming party at her home. The date of August 4, 2019, from 1:00 to 3:00 was decided upon. The church's regularly scheduled pot luck will be moved to her home for that day.

PASTOR JEFF UPDATE: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston stated that the Town Hall Meeting seemed to be well received. "Ice cream with the Pastor" was held later that same day.

Next meeting is scheduled for: July 23, 2019

Volunteer for devotions for next meeting: Jane Fleming

Closing prayer: Jeffrey A. Swainston

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Ruth Ann Ward

Heart matters

A relationship between two or more of Christ's followers is simply a heart-to-heart matter.

Methodism founder John Wesley said: "If your heart is as my heart, give me your hand." In other words, when two (or more) people know Christ, they have something wonderful in common. Therefore, they should embrace one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Attending worship and being involved in church activities draws us closer to Jesus and to each other. As Christ-ians, we are called to be hospitable toward strangers, not just our friends and acquaintances. Remember Christ's words: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me ..." (Matthew 25:35, NRSV).

FYI Hard copies of the newsletter are located on the table in the narthex.

Ad Council Minutes for July 23, 2019

PRESENT: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston, Bob Swanson, Terri Swanson, Jane Fleming, Lyle Matteson, and Charlene Anderson.

Lighting of the Candle: After the lighting of the candle, the meeting was opened with prayer.

Devotions: Jane Fleming

June 25, 2019, meeting minutes were distributed, read by council members, voted on and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION: Vacation Bible School is on track for July 28, 29, and 30. There is a promo on Facebook for it, and Ruth will be doing the snacks.

TRUSTEES: Nothing new reported.

MEMORIAL: Nothing new reported.

ENDOWMENT: Nothing new reported.

STEWARDSHIP: Nothing new reported.

MISSION AND OUTREACH: Char reported that \$226 was raised for the family who had the fire. On August 11 and August 18, 2019, Pastor will be on vacation, and we will have fill in speakers. Char is thinking of donating upcoming collections to teachers for school supplies, and/or to Manton Food Bank. Green Sky Hill Drum Corp in September.

WORSHIP: Nothing new reported.

STAFF PARISH: Nothing new reported.

FINANCE: The church's balance sheet was distributed, discussion followed, and they were accepted as presented. Special note; a large donation was received at the church which will help us to deal with the church's recent shortfall in income.

OTHER BUSINESS: SPRC with District Superintendent is scheduled for October 8, 2019, at 7:00 pm, one on one is scheduled for October 8, 2019, at 3:00 pm at Cross Roads church, and Church Conference is scheduled for Sunday, October 27, 2019, at 6:00 pm, at Lake City Lutheran.

PASTOR JEFF UPDATE: Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston: Pastor would like to have the Nominating Committee put together a Hospitality Committee for the purpose of getting and keeping church visitors. Pastor's current course study ends this week. His next class starts after his vacation in August. Ruth and Pastor discussed putting up corkboard across the entire board in the fellowship hall and getting a new dry erase calendar. Ruth has subsequently ordered said materials.

Pastor also discussed getting the extra TV up in the fellowship hall and using it to scroll announcements. The praise band will be playing at Northern Exposure in Mesick on August 20, 2019, at 6:00 pm. The Grant Church Pig RZoast will be on September 7, 2019.

Next meeting is scheduled for: August 27, 2019.

Volunteer for devotions for next meeting: Bob Swanson

Closing prayer: Jeffrey A. Swainston

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Ruth Ann Ward

A clean slate

One of the best things about heading back to school is the chance for a fresh start. A new year, new teachers, perhaps even a new school, offer students the opportunity to try a little harder and do a little better than the year before.

Praise God that he allows us to always start over. Jeremiah writes that the Lord's mercies "are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23a). With God's help, we can begin each day with a clean slate and a new attitude, determined to make some changes for the better.

United Methodist Church of Manton

102 N Michigan Avenue, PO Box B

Manton, MI 49663

Address Service Requested



Open hearts, open minds, open doors.

August/September 2019

There are no visitors in God's house, only family members we have not yet met.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, welcome home.

We are always glad to meet new members of God's family.

If you are looking for a church home, please join us as we follow Jesus.

Welcome! We love you and are so glad you are here.



“GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.”

L A M E N T A T I O N S 3 : 2 3

If you have an address change or no longer want to receive this newsletter, please notify us.