

FEBRUARY

THE HOTLINE

A monthly publication of the Holt United Methodist Church
~ Gathering at the Crossroads ~ In Community
~ With a Commitment to knowing and sharing the love of God
The Church at the Crossroads...Offering Christ in all that we do

A PUBLICATION OF HOLT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2012



tacklehunger.org

Feb. 5 is Souper Bowl of Caring:

HUMC Youth will be collecting donations following each of the services. 100% of the money

collected goes directly to a local charity.

60+or- will meet February 7, 2012 in the East Room at 12 noon for a potluck luncheon and program. Lisa Anders will tell is what is available at Great Lakes Christian Home in her program "Senior Housing." All are welcome! Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Drinks will be furnished. Come join us to learn what is available in our own area for seniors.

Mission Sunday is February 12.

Please join us this special day as we celebrate our church's mission outreach in all three services. Our guest speaker will be Carole Armstrong from Asbury UMC sharing about African University.



Our Hungry World Offering proceeds will go to support WM Conference project to build a new student center on campus at African University.

Swiss Steak Dinner Join us **Sunday, February 12** following both the 9:30 & 11:00 service in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from the dinner help to defray the transportation costs for the Red Bird Mission Trip.

Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, pasta salad, green beans, dessert, roll, coffee, tea or milk. Takeout is available. Tickets will be available at the Welcome Center February 5, and at the door. Cost is \$8 for those over 12 yrs.; \$4 for those 12 years and under.

Donations of 5 or 10 lb. bags of potatoes would be appreciated as well as 10 sheet cakes. Sign up to donate a sheet cake on Kathie's door. Please drop off bags of potatoes at the Christian Ed. office by **Feb. 5**. Thank you so much for your support!

Holt UMC on TV Comcast, Lansing Cable TV, Channel 19 airing on Monday, February 13 and again on Wednesday, February 15 from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. The program which features approximately 15 minutes of discussion about our church, 15 minutes of witness about various church ministries, and 30 minutes of inspirational music by our talented musicians (choir, bell choir, praise team, and Ko Eun Choi) from Super Sunday, was filmed and edited by our own Artis White of Flex-Media, <http://www.flexmedia.tv/> Tell your friends and family and your facebook® and twitter® followers!

Interfaith Day Interfaith Day, offered by Church Women United of Greater Lansing, will be held this year on Tuesday, February 28 from 9 AM – 2:30 PM at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1701 East Saginaw in Lansing. Cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. This year's program, "The ABC's of Faith" features speakers representing: Catholic, Orthodox, Jewish, Protestant, and Islamic perspectives. Dr. Wagner from Holt UMC is the Protestant speaker. If you would like to attend this ecumenical, inspirational, informative and educational day please contact the church office at 517 694-8168 or by email at holtumc@acd.net.

2012 Flower Chart is posted outside the church office. Anyone who wishes to mark a special occasion by providing flowers on the altar is welcome to sign up on the Sunday of your choice. Flowers may be fresh, silk or plants, arranged by you or by a florist. Please



drop off or have them delivered in time for the 8:30 a.m. service; you may take them home with you following the 11:00 a.m. worship.

The Lunch Bunch meets at a local restaurant most Sundays at 12:30 p.m. (following the 11:00 a.m. service) for dinner and fellowship. You are welcome to join us February 5—Flap Jack; February 12—Grumpy's (or plan to attend the annual Missions Swiss Steak Dinner!); February 19—Big Boy in Mason; February 26—Buddies Grill. Questions? See Sharon Simonson.

Red Bird Mission Trip

It's time to start finalizing our plans for our annual mission trip to Kentucky, which will be April 1-7. Would you like to serve God in the heart of Appalachia? **To participate, you must be 8th grade or older, and must notify Kathie Church in the CE office of your commitment to make the trip by Sunday, February 12. Notification must be either in writing or voicemail. Half of your tuition (Full tuition is \$350) is also due on this date.** There are fundraising requirements as well. Please make checks payable to Holt UMC. You can leave a voice mail at any time for Kathie at 694-8168, or email her at kathiechurch@acd.net. We are limited in the amount of people that may go, so it is first come, first serve! If you are interested in more information, please contact Kathie Church or John Busley.



An organizational meeting for first-timers only, will be **Monday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m.** in youth room 2.

A **Visitor Welcoming Committee** is being formed and we need your help to make our visitors feel welcomed at our Worship Services. If you feel called to help with this important task please contact the Church Office, Mary Jo DeLany, Sean Smith or Michele Childs.

Worship for February (8:30, 9:30 & 11)

Worship is the natural response to an encounter with the Holy. When we experience the power and presence of God we feel awe, wonder, reverence, thanksgiving, and praise. In the presence of the goodness of God sometimes we also feel ashamed, inadequate, aware of our shortcomings and unworthy. Our Sunday time and worship space are set apart so that collectively we can share our gratitude to God. It is true that often we can meet this sense of the Holy in other places like: a prison, a delivery ward, a hospice house, a sunset on a mountain top, at a concert, walking in a forest but there is worship that is deeper and more complete when we all are coming to the Lord with our talents, our presence, and our gifts. Come to worship in February and invite someone you love to join you.

February 5, 2012—5th Sunday after Epiphany—Communion—Souper Bowl of Caring Dr. Wagner preaching on “The Big Ideas of Paul: Be Not Conformed.” Special collection after all services for the Souper Bowl of Caring.

February 12, 2012—6th Sunday after the Epiphany—Missions Sunday We will be blessed by Carole Armstrong, a lay member from Asbury United Methodist Church in Lansing, who will speak to us about Africa University. Our special mission offering will support our West Michigan Conference project to build a new Student Center on the Campus. Thank you for your generosity. Join us for the annual Swiss Steak Dinner. We will again be serving after both services beginning at 10:30 a.m. Great food, great fellowship, great cause.

February 19, 2012—Boy Scout Sunday—Transfiguration Sunday Dr. Wagner preaching “The Big Ideas of Paul: Humbled Like Christ”

Wednesday Evening February 22 7 PM Lansing District Ash Wednesday Service Begin Lent with with other United Methodists from around our District for an inspirational evening of worship at DeWitt Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Rd., DeWitt. Music will be provided by a combined choir and musicians from our churches around the



District. Dr. Wagner will be the preacher for the evening. His title, “Giving Up Hell for Lent.” The service will include the traditional imposition of ashes signaling the start of Lent

and will be followed by fellowship and refreshment.

February 26, 2012—1st Sunday in Lent Our theme during Lent for worship and for our small groups that will be meeting at church and in people's homes during Lent is “Journey Toward Forgiveness.” Each week during worship Dr. Wagner will be interviewing an expert who will share with us insights from their experience that will relate not only to the topic being discussed in the small groups but will also help us in our own wrestling to forgive one another when our relationships are stressed by life's circumstance. Our first guest will be Dr. Nicole McGee, Victim Advocate Specialist for the Detroit Office of the FBI who will discuss assisting victims of serious crimes and their families.

Theme for February: “The Ten Lepers”



Kingdom Kids

Main Idea: One leper returned and gave thanks for being made clean. God desires that we live as whole people. We give thanks for all God has done in our lives.

Children will explore the following concepts: Jesus healed ten lepers, but only one returned to say “thank

you” to Jesus; God provides wholeness in mind, Body, spirit, and in social relationships; God does many things for us and we can be grateful; saying “thank you” is an act of praise to God; we also say thank you to people who do things for us.

Memory Verse: Then one of (the lepers), when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice.” Luke 17:15

Mission Project for February: Rainbow Homes in Holt. Rainbow Homes provides ecumenical Christian housing and services for adults with cognitive disabilities, where they may grow personally and spiritually to reach their God-given potential, all while being nurtured in a home-like Christian setting. Items needed: (see list on chapel board ledge) glass beads (please no pony beads), glue sticks, markers, tape, glitter glue (please no crayons or stickers), copy paper, business size (#10) envelopes, postage stamps, toilet paper, paper towels, sponges, Windex, Clorox Wipes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, socks, find-a-word puzzle books (large print if possible)

Workshops: Creation Station (Art), Solid Rock Café (Cooking), Science & Bible Busters (Games)

Kathie’s Corner—

So many of you have inquired about my recent trip to the Philippines; it was certainly the trip of a lifetime! If you are interested in hearing more about it, I will be sharing the story with the Middle School/Junior High Youth group at our meeting on Sunday, February 26 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. You don’t have to be in that age group to come! I will also be sharing with 60 + or – in May.

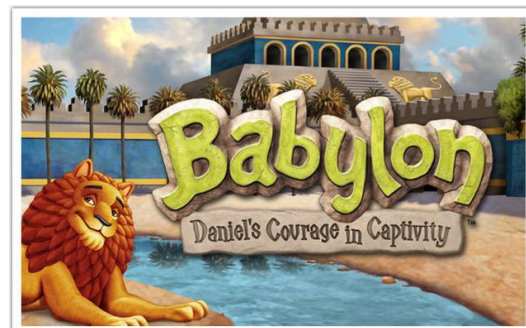
I truly could feel the prayers of many accompanying me on this journey. It was a wonderful time of rest, renewal and reconnection. The question that has most been asked, “What was the most exciting or memorable thing you experienced?” I’m still processing the answer to that one!

This morning at a breakfast meeting, I was sharing with my discipleship group that I believe the trip became a reality because of obedience to some things the Lord wanted me to change in my life. I have been SO blessed of late...and the trip was just one part of that.

I am looking forward to sharing with those of you who are interested about my experience. See you soon!

Christian Education Thanks to... Lucille LaCourse and Mark Ginther who filled in for me while I was in the Philippines.

Vacation Bible School for Grades K-5 will be July 16-19. Our theme



for this year is “Babylon: Daniel’s Courage in Captivity.”

NEEDED: Shoe boxes! You may bring them anytime to the CE office.

Thank you to all who donated so generously to the HVAC-Furnace fund. To date, the new boilers have been installed, are paid in full and Sunday morning worship is much warmer! We also have enough funds in reserve to replace the original furnaces left in the education wing as the need arises. It is a testament to the blessings of God and the faithfulness of our members that we did not have to go into debt to accomplish this necessary and major upgrade to the church’s physical plant.

Confirmation Youth Have you ever seen an actual Jewish scroll? The Confirmation Youth have. We had a meaningful and informative visit to the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue with instruction and a worship service by Rabbi Amy Bigman. There is a lot going on as we engage our youth! Our next class is on Feb. 12 at 9:30. Remember, on Monday, Feb. 20 we will go to the Holocaust Memorial. We will leave the HUMC at 8:30 am. Bring at least \$10.00 to pay for your entrance fee and lunch. We will also be ushering at the Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday Service at the DeWitt, UMC and we will leave the HUMC at 5:30. Pastor Glenn is preaching.

“May the Force Be With You”

In May of 1977, Filmmaker George Lucas released the first in what has been called an Epic Space Opera Film Series, “Star Wars.” The series of six films has grossed over 4 billion dollars in revenues from movie goers around the world who have been transported thanks to the vivid imagination of the movie producer to an intergalactic future and a front row seat to witness the continuing battle between good and evil on a cosmic scale.

By taking us to “other galaxies” and introducing us to alien creatures and talking helper droids the viewer is freed from mortal constraints and given an other worldly lens to reconsider our earthly condition from the vantage point of our imagination. In the Star Wars movie, evil is a felt presence and foreboding. The whole theater erupts in celebration when good triumphs at the climax. The unforgettable musical theme by John Williams punctuates the action and moves the emotions across space and time travel with our heroes from anxious fear to unrestrained joy.

If you have seen the movie you will remember that the “good guys” in “Star Wars” are the Jedi Knights who are distinguished from all the others by their ability to focus their consciousness and tap into the good side of an otherwise invisible and unknown “force” and channel that latent energy through their own minds and bodies to do extraordinary things in their battle against the evil designs of the imperial empire. Presumably that force is present in the universe for all to access but only the Jedi appear to realize its value, cultivate their discernment skills, and have used that knowledge to partner with that “force” for the sake of goodness. Most other characters in the film appear to be oblivious to the force’s existence and power. Most characters in the movie are akin to a Bedouin shepherd tending his flocks in Arabia on top of a sand dune completely unaware that he is sitting on top of the world’s largest supply of oil and equally unaware of what tapping into and harnessing that supply would mean.

The Jedi Knights in the Star Wars movies are pitted in the plot against the seemingly overwhelming malevolent strength of the Empire. The master of the evil realm is Darth Vader, himself a fallen Jedi who surrendered his will to the equally present and otherwise invisible dark side of the “force.” This dark side of the force has erased most of the human qualities of Vader and has made him into a cold, powerful, sinister, and robotic presence. In the choice between good and evil, it is clear to film-maker Lucas and his audience that siding with the good side of the force is eminently more human and desirable than becoming a slave to the dark side.

I mention Star Wars for several reasons. First, if you want to understand the Apostle John’s dreams in the Biblical Book of Revelation, Star Wars is a helpful key. The Apostle’s Biblical dreams, like the movie, feature otherworldly creatures and a very real sense of the foreboding evil that dominates the present in the form of god-less rulers who are determined to crush the faithful. But the Apostle John is an agent for God and gives us a glimpse past the present evil to the power, majesty, and glory of God’s ultimate triumph. Read chapters 4, 7, 21 and 22 of Revelation out loud and you will sense the

joy of God’s presence and God’s victory in a way that is similar to the triumph in the great throne room that George Lucas pictures at the climax of his Star Wars movie. God’s love for us and God’s victory are even greater when contrasted with the fearful taste of evil that precedes it in both the Bible, the movie, and in real life.

And secondly, I mention Star Wars because the major character in the Star Wars epic is not the Jedi Knights or Darth Vader but “the force” that is resident throughout the universe and inclined toward the good when channeled by the Jedi Knights.

In her book, “The Intention Experiment,” author Lynne McTaggart reviews the growing body of legitimate scientifically conducted experiments from our time which confirm the existence in our own world of a power akin to the “force” of the Star Wars epics. We can’t quantify the power or contain it but we can discern its working, access it, and channel with it for good.

McTaggart confirms what Christians have known for 2,000 years. There is power in prayer, what McTaggart refers to as “focused intentions” to heal, to influence outcomes, to persuade, and to alter outlooks. Most of us, most of the time are oblivious to the presence of that power. Christians know that power as “God” and discuss it as the third person of the Trinity, as “the Holy Spirit.”

Not surprisingly, author Paul Borden, in his book about the church, “Direct Hit,” notices the correlation between churches that are vital in mission, growing in numbers and spirit on the one hand and the disciplined practice of prayer on the other. Borden encourages congregations to organize prayer teams not for the purpose of praying for relatives with cancer or for neighbors looking for jobs, which are also seen as important but instead to tap into the power of God’s Holy Spirit to pray specifically for the mission and ministry of the church to reach new people with the love and grace of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Borden urges prayer teams to form that are committed to praying globally for the community and world beyond our church walls and for “big picture” issues in our world like inequality, hunger, racism, and peace. Prayer notes Borden is essential and primary to the mission of the Church. We are looking to start such a prayer team at Holt UMC that will compliment our existing prayer team but will meet weekly and focus its efforts on prayer for ministry and for our world. If you would like to be a part of this effort please contact Mary-Jo Delany at 517 268-6699 or by email at maryjo.delany@gmail.com

That power that is all around us has the capacity to change lives. In the Gospel of John, chapter 14, Jesus points out that “if you love me, keep my commandments, and the father and I will come to you and make our home with you and dwell with you.” I believe that John’s Gospel is right when it indicates that living as a faithful disciple of Jesus is the key to having the power of the universe take up residence in our hearts.

I have seen this power of God’s presence at work in the lives of Christians I have known, many of them a part of this great congregation. That power manifests itself in what St. Paul identified as the “fruits of the spirit:” love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, and self-control. That power of God’s presence is most visible to me in older Christians who have been living as disciplined Christians for a lifetime and the net effect of faithful prayer, stewardship, service to

others, study, worship and love allows that power of God to shine through them in ways that awaken something in me when I witness their lives that invites, "Lord, help me to grow like that!"

There are moments in life when that Holy power of the universe is glimpsed with even greater clarity for me: the miracle of birth, the mystery of death, the glory of a sunrise from a mountain top, wrestling mightily with grief, walking in a forest. There have been moments when "God-incidences" have occurred in my life and I have been able to see God's awesome finger prints on the outcomes as if heaven opens up the veil and we can glimpse momentarily who is in charge and that life is going to be OK. Tapping into this otherwise hidden "power" of God energizes my spirit and gives me strength to continue in faith even when the road ahead is not as clear. As I journey on down the "faith road" I become more convinced than ever that the main character in life is not me, or you, but rather "the force," the power and presence of Almighty God and it is our efforts to connect with God, in worship, service, mission, fellowship, prayer, and study that makes our journey worthwhile. So I invite you to tap into the power of God's presence in your own life. Make worship a discipline. Make giving a priority. Make loving God and serving Christ your aim. Make prayer a cherished time in your day. Make supporting Christ's mission and growing in fellowship with Christ's people important. And may "the force", the divine and holy presence of the living God who revealed himself to us in Jesus be the source of our strength. For without the "force" of God's presence through the Holy Spirit, evil wins and we are lost. With the presence of the Holy, all things are possible with God. See you in church on Sunday.

Love,



Glenn

Stewardship Thoughts Many of the things that I value in life have been made possible by the generosity of others. I attended a YMCA camp as a child that was originally an estate gift to the YMCA and the camp was subsequently subsidized by the contributions of the members to keep the cost affordable. I attended institutions of higher education that would have been greatly diminished were it not for the generosity of its alumni and donors. The churches that have been instrumental in my spiritual development were gifts to me built on the voluntary contributions of others. When I broke my leg in Israel the Emergency team drove an ambulance that was provided to the Hadassah Hospital thanks to the generous donations of Jews from Chicago, Illinois. One of the reasons that I am happy to give a portion of myself away as a discipline of my faith is my gratitude for gifts received and my conviction that a climate of philanthropy that inspires all of us to more faithful stewardship is great for us all.

From the CEC: It's the month of hearts and flowers. It's "Heart Day." The preschool children are so proud when they learn to draw a heart. The pre-Kindergarten children are so proud when they finally figure out and successfully fold a piece of paper in half and cut out a heart, or what they think resembles one. Little milestones for little people.

We want to use the space this February to send hearts and flowers to our friends in the HUMC:

- ♥ To Carl Strahle for the poinsettia
- ♥ To Jan Baker for Christmas gifts, books, reading to the children, and all of her support
- ♥ To Brian & Kristi Zakrzewski for their hard work with the signs
- ♥ To Uyvonne Johnson for a brand new electric fry pan
- ♥ To Bob & Jane Chronister for their unending generosity
- ♥ To the UMW for the yummy food they often leave us
- ♥ To Chris Commet for help in so many ways
- ♥ To Kathie Church for endless support
- ♥ To the CEC Board for all their work
- ♥ To the anonymous donor for the generous gift
- ♥ To the Rummage Sale volunteers for their consideration and cooperation as we shared the space
- ♥ To anyone I have mistakenly omitted (I'm sorry)
- ♥ And to all the members of HUMC who support the CEC in thought, word, and prayer.

♥♥ Happy Valentine's Day♥♥

With love from the CEC staff, children, and families♥♥♥♥

Special Thanks & Congratulations

Special thanks to those anonymous donors whose gifts to others at Christmas made a difference to families in need in our community.

Thank you to our United Methodist Women for making Valentines for our Veterans. Their homemade cards are distributed through our Veteran's Hospitals.

Thank you Art Nott, Denny Walsh, and the Holt Kiwanis Club for your volunteer efforts which made possible another successful blood drive this month. 41 pints of blood were received to save lives in Lansing.

Thank you Linda Beehler, our Missions Committee and all the faithful donors and volunteers who made our annual rummage sale a success. Salary support for our missionaries to Haiti: Ash and Stephanie Norton, was raised through this event.

Thank you for your ministries to colleagues in our District who have done wonderful work for our connection. Bill Haggard, pastor for the last ten years at Mount Hope UMC has been named the new Grand Rapids District Superintendent beginning July 1. Please be in prayer for Bill and his family and his congregation as they prepare for this season of transition. Similarly we should be in prayer for Molly Turner and Betty Smith. These wonderful pastors who form a dynamic pastoral team at Grand Ledge UMC will both be retiring effective July 1. Keep the Grand Ledge ministry in your prayers. We have been in prayer for Chuck Grauer, the pastoral leader at Christ UMC. Chuck is continuing in ministry and has been battling the effects of a failing liver. Please keep Chuck and Christ UMC in prayer as well.

Congratulations to Andy Struble. Andy is the son of Nonnie and Tracy Struble and a student at Okemos High School. He recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Well done Andy. We are proud of you.

Thank you to Rabbi Amy Bigman and the gracious members of Shaarey Zedek Synagogue for hosting our confirmation class and interested church members during their evening Shabbat service on Friday, January 20. As has become customary during our annual visit, Rabbi Bigman did her usual superb job explaining the worship and basic Jewish beliefs prior to the service. The worship is inspirational and the hospitality following service exceptional. We are grateful.

Campbell's Soup Labels & General Mills Box Tops

Thank you for your continued support in donating Campbell Soup labels and General Mills box tops. The next batch will be sent with the Red Bird Mission Trip team. You may drop off donations in the box on the narthex table. Remember, the barcode cannot be torn, and no tape may be used on labels. Just a reminder, Campbell's no longer accepts the front panels. We do not collect Betty Crocker Points, the redemption catalog ceased operating in Dec. 2006.



United Methodist Women—

Do you ever wonder what United Methodist Women do - as an organized group of Holt United Methodist Church (HUMC) ladies? You might think it's a chance to get together once in awhile to plan bake sales and coffee hours and talk about grandchildren, ailments and eat cake and cookies. Not!



United Methodist Women (UMW) began in 1869 with six members. Today there are more than 800,000 members throughout the world. Here at Holt UMC, there are nearly 70 members. From its beginning, United Methodist Women has focused on ministries with **women, children and youth**.

Women have been empowered by leadership education opportunities, mission education, the reading program, tools for advocacy and more. United Methodist Women also supports programs and projects aimed at improving the special needs of women because of their refugee statuses, their immigration statuses, situations in which they are abused, their high illiteracy rate in some countries, their economic dependence, their educational disparities, and much more.

Children are a special emphasis of UMW. If children are raised with safety, security, food, shelter, education, and basic human rights, they will grow to be loving and secure adults. United Methodist Women believe deeply in responding to Jesus' mandate to "care for the least of these."

United Methodist Women work with youth organizations globally and with programs and projects that support and empower youth.

UMW supported programs and projects are possible because of individual women's gifts to mission through mission giving. Mission giving allows UMW to respond where the need is greatest and to work in a partnership with organizations doing similar work.

Close to \$20 million comes from UMW members annually to the United Methodist Church Women's Division to support mission programs and projects throughout the U.S. and around the world. These gifts don't include another \$5 million collected and used by local member units such as Holt United Methodist Women. The UMW of Holt raised thousands of dollars in 2011 to support a multitude of missions including some of our local community neighbors. Thank you to all who have supported Holt UMW.

David Hosey (an intern at UMW-supported Mission) wrote, "*Mission is presence, relationship, witness and sharing. Mission is refusing to turn*

away when the tears of God are being shed over the violence and injustice and suffering of God's wayward creation."

United Methodist Women mission initiatives include: Providing opportunities to grow spiritually; providing transformative educational experiences; organizing for growth and flexibility; working for justice through service and advocacy.

Any/All women of Holt United Methodist Church are invited to be a part of the enriching and rewarding experiences of membership in Holt United Methodist Women. For membership information, please contact Deb McCarthy, Karol Fry, or any member of the HUMW leadership team (see January *Hotline* for list).

HOLT UMW LEADERSHIP TEAM Tuesday, February 7, 10:00 a.m., Library, HUMC

MAUDY-PRISCILLA Monday, February 20, 7:00 p.m. Home of Betty Fay (ph. 699-2283 for directions) Program: Kathy Reincke

CAROLINE CIRCLE Tuesday, February 21, 12 noon, Soup Luncheon, East Room, HUMC Program: Margaret Turner

EVA CIRCLE Tuesday, February 28, 2:00 p.m., Jennifer Baragar's Home (ph. 694-7799 for directions) Program: Roberta Lott

GREAT LAKES FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE Tuesday, February 28, 12:30 p.m. Small Dining Room, Great Lakes Christian Home Phone Margaret Turner for reservations at 694-5971

Didn't get your new HUMW Cookbook or CD yet? Hurry, while they last! There are a few left! Stop by the church office or see someone at the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings. A bargain at \$15 (checks payable to Holt United Methodist Women).

Mark your calendars! The **Annual Spring Breakfast** will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 14, 2012.

Help U Medical Closet Do you have any medical equipment (i.e. wheelchair, walker, lift chair, hospital bed, crutches) that you do not need at the present time? If so, would you like to let the church office know what it is? We will keep an inventory list of available items, then when someone has a need they can let us know. You would still own the equipment and could get it back after the needy person is done with it. If you would like to participate, please call the church office, 694-8168, or e-mail holtumc@acd.net

Notes to the Congregation

To our HUMC friends: We would like to express our deepest gratitude for your thoughts and prayers during our house fire. We are grateful for all the food, gift cards and donations that were provided during that time.

You may have heard-the fire started in the garage and moved across the front of the house as well as totaling the camper sitting in the driveway. At this time we are finalizing the plans for the rebuild and hope to be back in the house by summer.

We are thankful that we are all safe and appreciate the generosity we have received. Thank you. The Schneiders-Don, Sue, William, Megan, Kenny, Lucas

My Holt Church Family,

Thank you so much for your contribution to the Scholarship Fund in my mom's name. Mom embraced music all her life. The music will continue, thank to your contribution.—Warren Smith

Thank you to all who attended my benefit dinner on January 12th at Charlar Place. It was a huge success thanks to members of HUMC who attended. The profits will be a huge help to the ongoing medical expenses I have incurred over the past several years. Sincerely, Julie Elliott and family

Thank you to the Holt UMW for the Special Mission Recognition. I appreciate that you felt I deserve this award. May God bless you for all you do. Again, thank you.—Lucille LaCourse

Hello to all church friends—I am so blessed by each of you. Your prayers for my health were felt in many ways—the cards, e-mail messages, calls, visits, gifts, food. Special thanks to Pastor Glenn & Michele for visits. I really miss not being able to join you in church. Thank you is a small phrase but very deeply felt and sincerely meant. I am getting stronger but have a long way to gain. Love to teach of you. Keep the prayers going.—Mary Hamilton & family

Lenten Small Groups: Do you want to take part in a small study group through Holt UMC during Lent? This year we will meet for conversation following a powerful video presentation each week called, "Journey Toward Forgiveness." This series includes real life situations and conversations with persons who are struggling to find a path to healing, including: a family whose daughter was abducted and murdered, a family dealing with the death of a

child by a drunken driver, a story of a couple facing a husband's terminal illness; a story of racial injustice and healing, a Native American massacre; and one man's journey from rage to forgiveness after the Oklahoma City Bombing. Sunday mornings we will have parallel interviews with persons today who are dealing with similar issues in our community.

We would like for as many persons as are able at Holt UMC to engage in this journey and discussion. This study will last for 7 weeks during Lent which begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 22 and continues till Easter on April 8.

Small groups times, leaders, and locations will be posted in early February at church for signing up, and on our church website at www.holtumc.org. If you have additional questions about these group offerings please contact the church office by phone at 517 694-8168 or by email at holtumc@acd.net.

We are collecting:

- Cell Phones for Soldiers—used cell phones are recycled and turned into long distance phones minutes which our soldiers to use to keep in touch with their families
- Eye Glasses—prescription eye glasses are donated to the Lions Club, which distributes them to those who cannot afford to buy, or do not have access to them
- Can tabs—from pop cans—aluminum is the best—for Community House in Grand Rapids Collection boxes are located outside the sanctuary.

Piece to Peace Quilters will meet at a new date and time this year. Beginning in February, we will meet on the 2nd Thursday at



10:00 a.m. in the East Room. Please call Nancy Soderberg-Smaltz at 517-882-1964 with any questions. The Piece to Peace Quilters makes lap robes for shut ins, baptism commemorative quilts, veterans, and other causes.

Everyone with an interest in this mission is welcome to attend whether you have sewing experience or not. We will train!

Keep Making Peace with Shane Claiborne on March 31, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at East Lansing University UMC, 1120 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing. Cost is \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 for families which is due on the day of the event; however, pre-registration is required. This Keep Making Peace event is sponsored by the Boards of Church and Society, the United Methodist Women of the West Michigan and Detroit Conferences ...and...The Wesley Foundation at Michigan State University. Space is limited; please pre-register online at <http://msuwesley.org/claiborne> You may also register by phone at 517.332.0861 Tuesday through Thursday , 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Holt United Methodist Church

2321 N. Aurelius Rd. ~ P. O. Box 168 ~ Holt, MI 48842

The Church at the Crossroads

Our Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn M. Wagner

Pastoral Assistant: Michele Childs

Administrative Assistant: Chris Commet

Christian Education Director: Kathie Church

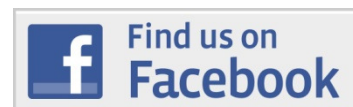
Custodians: Jon Curtis & Paul Busley

Child Enrichment Center Director: Lisa Scriver

Contact us:

Phone: 517-694-8168 • Fax: 517-694-2319 • email: holtumc@acd.net

visit our website: www.holtumc.org





February Birthdays

- 1 Betty Williams
Teresa Brown
Dan Lauzun
Lee Smith
- 2 Susan Hank
Warren Smith
Jessica Scott
Cathey Crooks
Myle Le
- 3 Marilyn Warner
Jerry Smith
Deb McCarthy
- 4 Heather Ott
- 5 Glenn VanDyke
- 6 Kristi Zakrzewski
Nathan Fox
- 7 Debra Tallis

- Michala White
Conner Henderson
Hayley Manor
- 8 Nancy Dunivon
- 9 Roger Rochowiak
- 12 Lucille LaCourse
- 13 Robert Heemer
- 14 Don Livingston
Dani Gimm
- 15 Josh Schulz
- 16 Kristi Harless
Carly Harless
- 17 Susan Chiodi
Pam Livingston
Sarah DeLany
Samantha Shepard
- 19 Sheri Tulloch
Alekszander Mazzaferro
- 20 Marcia White
Jacob Hall
- 21 David Showerman
Michael Williams II
Mary Edinger
- 22 Jeff Shattuck
Thelma Bailey
Stephanie DeClercq
- 23 Dakota Keith
Nancy Wagner
Madison Stuard
- 24 Megan Schneider

- Freida Lutz
Meredith Beach
- 25 Hannah Johnson
- 26 Tiffany Ried
Valerie DeLany
- 27 Beatrice Terry
Brogan Elliott
- 28 Cheryl Ordway
Valerie Webb
- 29 Carl Acker



THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

February Anniversaries

- 1 Ron & Nancy Perrine
- 3 Don & Pam Livingston
- 10 Jeff & Denise Shattuck
- 13 Cecil & Betty Stevens
- 14 Debbie & Bernard Bryan
- 17 William & Carol Dunn
Perry & Uyvonne Johnson
- 23 Pat & Robbin Manor
- 24 Todd & Karen Schulz
- 26 Jon & Dawn Hartig
- 27 Joe & Mary-Jo DeLany

We're updating our phone/address directory!

Family Name: _____

Family members: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Alt. Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

OK to publish all information

Please publish only the following: _____

Newsletter options! Those who have an e-mail address may choose to receive the newsletter electronically, or read it at www.holtumc.org

Name _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Send by _____ e-mail or I will check the website _____

Please turn this form in to the church office or an usher. Thank you!