

# Hotline

January | 2024

## Small Group Opportunities

- Sundays at 9:30 AM—Adult Sunday School (Library)—led by Robert Risley
- Tuesdays at 9:30 AM starting Jan. 16—Studying Matthew (Zoom)—led by Pastor Anita
- Tuesdays at 4 PM starting Jan. 16—Studying Matthew (Great Lakes Christian Homes)—led by Pastor Anita
- Wednesdays at 7 AM—Studying the book “Think Like Jesus” (Bob Evans, S. Lansing)—Led by Bob Trout; Contact Maynard Hamilton

## New Groups

- Thursdays at 6 PM starting Jan. 4—Prayer Group (Chapel)—led by David LaLone—Come together and pray over the concerns of the church and the community. And practice spiritual disciplines together.
- Thursdays at 6 PM starting Jan. 4—Studying Genesis (Zoom)—led by David LaLone—No book to buy or any required reading. We will read and discuss the text together.

\*Small groups for Lent will be available soon, starting in February. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

## January Hungry World



The **Hungry World Offering** for January is our Church Camping Offering. This will go camping for camping scholarships – half will stay here at Holt UMC for kids here in Holt and half will go to the Conference Camp Affordability Fund. This fund helps campers who cannot afford the full price of

camp. The goal for 2024 is \$10,000.

Many of us experienced weeks at a UMC Camp. For some of us, the name, Michigan Area UM Camping is deeply ingrained in us. The Camping Board is launching a new brand called **Grace Outside**. This embraces the concept of GRACE – the unearned love of God. (More on this on Sunday, Feb. 4).

Grace Outside has 3 campgrounds. Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat, Lake Michigan Camp and Retreat Center is renamed Lake Michigan Family Campground, and Lake Huron Retreat Center.

GraceOutside.org is the new Michigan Conference Camping Website. Check it out!

## January Church Social



We invite you to start the new year with our Valentine for Vets event along side the United Women in Faith. Join Karen Syroka and others from church to make Valentine cards for veterans. The event starts at 1:30 in the East Room on Monday, January 15th. All are welcome to join the fun!

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## JANUARY Birthdays

- 2 Kathy Reincke
- 3 Carole Anthony  
Dennis Irwin-Stabenow
- 4 James Ordway
- 5 Zachary Haynes  
Holly Scott-Hetchler
- 6 Erica Le
- 7 Abby LaLone
- 8 Randy Coller  
Dawn Hartig
- 11 Kevin Fox  
David Grawburg
- 12 Deborah Irwin-Stabenow  
Robert Risley  
Anna Kate Warfield
- 15 Amy Schupska  
Sylvia Welke
- 16 Teri Richardson
- 18 Elaine Anderson
- 26 Inge Kyler  
Karen Waite

- 28 Andy Struble
- 31 Karol Fry  
Gary Jacob  
Karen Lemon

## ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

- 9 Gordon & Cheryl Galloway
- 20 Skip & Linda Beehler

**NOTE: If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please contact the church office, 517-694-8168, or email [holtumc@gmail.com](mailto:holtumc@gmail.com) with the information.**

## PRAYER list

Pete Gatteri—Prayers for my neighbor, Louise, in the battle with cancer; Steve Russell—A friend from church camp who is experiencing cyber-bullying; Michelle Martin—For Emma who has had a fever for 3 days and tested negative for Covid, RSV, & flu; For the family of Tom Trout, brother of Bob Trout, who lost his battle with cancer on Nov. 25; For Art Kyler as he recovers from surgery; Dale Robbins—for my eye sight; Pete Gatteri—for the family of my cousin, Rosemary Paul Buck, on her passing; Lester Norton—for a special friend, Kathy, who fell in her apartment & broke her hip and had a complete hip replacement; For Art Kyler & family after the loss of his sister; Linda Kaschyk—for a friend, Penny, who had a 2nd reconstructive surgery on her ankle on Dec. 6; Dale & Margaret Brown—for

their niece and baby Levi who was born needing heart surgery; For Isabel Chester; Star LaLone—for our nephew, Ash, who had an ear infection but also had an allergic reaction to the medicine; Cheryl Ordway—for a friend who is in the hospital with Covid and has been put on a ventilator; Prayers for all our shut-ins, cancer patients, and surgery patients; for the lost and the lonely and all the special unspoken requests

## From the CEC



### Classroom Spotlight — Nursery Spotlight!

Hello from CEC kids and staff! Miss Debbie has worked at the Child Enrichment Center since 1985. She went to child development classes at LCC and she started working in the Pre-K room in the 1980's. But for the past 35 years, Miss Debbie has found her calling with the babies in our nursery! With caring for infants as young as 6 weeks old, Miss Debbie feels the job is so rewarding by watching many first things—like eating a new baby food, taking first steps, sitting up, and learning a new word or sound. Debbie enjoys painting with the babies and reading stories and just simply watching them grow!

The CEC is blessed to have Miss Debbie!

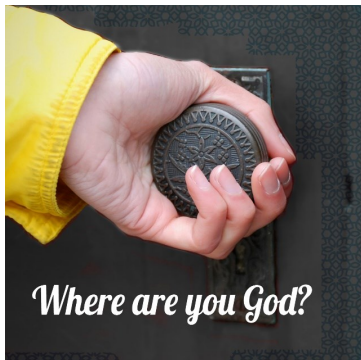


## Youth Fundraiser

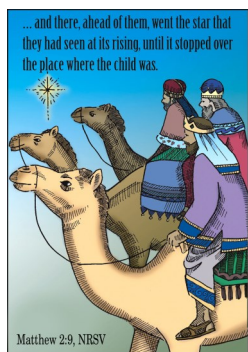
The teens want to invite you to a Spaghetti dinner in our gym. This is an opportunity to support the youth of the church as they seek to raise money for activities and revitalizing the youth room into a more welcoming and vibrant learning environment. Dinner will be on January 28th @5pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. Donations can be made by marking your giving with Youth Fundraiser.







# Worship Together



## January 7

**Epiphany Sunday—**  
**“Where are you God, when the night is dark?”**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

Epiphany! Ah-ha! Where are those moments that you see God and you are surprised? This week we celebrate the coming of the wisemen to visit the Christ Child. Where have you found Jesus and how has meeting Jesus changed your life?



## January 14

**Human Relations Sunday—**  
**“Where are you God, when the pain runs deep?”**

**Matthew 7:12, 12:15-21**

**Micah 6:6-8**

Today, we celebrate, “Human Relations Sunday,” and remember that we have been called to love one another. The verse, “I’m gonna’ treat everybody right—until I die,” from the traditional spiritual, “I Will Trust in the Lord,” is slowly becoming known for how the human family lives together. It also invites us to remember two things: that one person can make a tremendous difference and that when we venture forth in the name of God’s justice, we will not have to stand alone for very long. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has truly taken his place in history as a drum major for justice, leading a parade of like-minded people on several continents who continue the work begun under his leadership nearly half a century ago. “I will put my Spirit upon him and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles” Matthew 12:18b. May we never forget that we are all God’s children. Before we were known, God knew us and loved us.



## January 21

**Ecumenical Sunday—**  
**“Where are you God, when the fighting never stops?”**

**Matthew 12:33-37, 18:15-21**

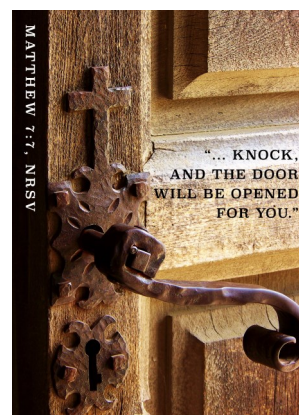
**Isaiah 2:4**

Scripture is consistent in the call for followers of Christ to love our

Join us in-person at 9:30 AM & 11 AM on Sundays.

Watch the live-stream at [www.facebook.com/holtumc/](http://www.facebook.com/holtumc/)

enemies (Matt. 5:44-45a), forgive others their trespasses (Matt. 6:14-15), to overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21), and to seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34:14). Peacemakers are blessed and called the children of God (Matt. 5:9) (Discipleship Ministry Resources). Today, we will look at our situations close to home and far away, and contemplate, where are you God, when we as people can’t get along with one another? Where are you in the war? Where are you in the arguments at home? Where are you in the tensions of our society? How do we live into Isaiah 2:4, “they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and there spears into pruning-hooks.”



## January 28

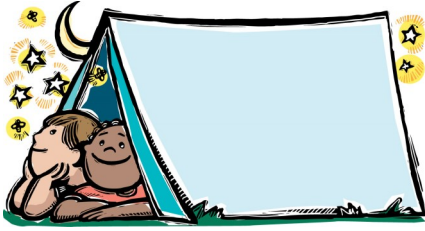
**4th Sunday after the Epiphany—**  
**“Where are you God, when we as Christians disagree?”**

**Matthew 7:1-6**

Where do we find God when Christians disagree? How do we allow God to speak to us without causing harm to our siblings? How can we listen to one another’s stories so that we can hear the voice of God without putting up our walls of judgement, uncertainty and disdain? Matthew 7 gives us solid words to live by as we seek to both understand God and to live in harmony with humanity.

# Summer Family Camp

For more than 20 years, HUMC has been going to Lake Michigan Camp and Retreat Center for family camping. The camp has cabins or tents to rent if you don't have a camper or family tent. Tents are on a platform and have cots, all you need is your bedding. The area we are camping in will have a new restroom completed by the time we are scheduled for camping July 12-14, 2024. Butch and myself handle most of the cooking and organizing. Friday night we have a big fire and cook pizza pies over the fire and everyone brings something to pass. Saturday breakfast and lunch is on your own but we will always help if a family needs it.



Saturday dinner we have a potluck, bring a dish to pass and meat to cook on our grills. Sunday, Butch and I cook pancakes and sausage for breakfast and then we have a church service. We have to check out by 11 AM but you are welcome to stay and enjoy Lake Michigan. This campground has mature trees so most of the sights are shaded but once you climb the sand dune stairs, the views of Lake Michigan are spectacular. I hope you can join and feel free to reach out to me with any questions.  
~Patty Leonard, (517) 719-4697

## Imagination

David LaLone, Director of Christian Education

I am a poet and singer-songwriter or at least I used to be. You see, I have struggled to write lately. In 2020, I self-published a collection of poems that was well received. That same year, I released my last album. In the past 3 going on 4 years, I have written far less than I used to. This is a scary thing for a creative writer. Have I lost my gift? Have I lost my imagination?

That last question has really struck me hard lately. What is the state of my imagination? As I have explored my calling into ministry over the years, I have battled with my imagination. I have wrestled with my imagination for what ministry is and what it can be for me. How do my gifts and graces fit into the Kingdom of God?

In my twenties, I was an idealist, asking the question, "Why?". I was a dreamer, asking, "what does that look like?". My imagination has often been directed toward the church and it living out its kingdom purpose. I always knew that my purpose was in serving the church and leading it in some fashion. What ministry has looked like for me has changed over time. Sometimes it is really clear and other times I have cried out to God for just a glimpse or hint at his vision for me. When I graduated from college with a degree in theology and youth ministry, I went job hunting. There weren't any church jobs in the area. I kept broadening my search radius beyond the commuter range to the pack up your bags and move range. But the brakes squealed really loud. I had roots in my hometown of Lansing. I lacked the imagination to see myself elsewhere. It wasn't for lack of wanting. There were seasons I begged God to send me away, but that call never came. I never felt God moving me, but he always expected me to submit to the possibility.

I now find myself licensed as a local pastor in the UMC, where I may be asked to go pastor elsewhere. Do I have the imagination to see and prepare for that? I can visualize packing my family's belongings into the moving van and driving off into the sunset. That is as far as my imagination leads me. I still feel very rooted in Lansing. But I am more submissive to the church and God than I have ever been.

As Holt is working its collective imagination together to build a vision, we will ask the why questions and wonder together, "what does that look like?". It won't be idealist twenties in the room, it will be a multi-generational group praying and strategizing with a strange mix of idealism, realism, and hopefully evangelism.

I am slowly writing more. God is slowly giving me an imagination to see beyond the horizon. I see beautiful things in the future. I see a revolving door in the church as followers of Christ are being called out and broken lost people are coming into a community. Are we ready and willing to submit to the calling of God who gives us wild imaginations?

May we not lose our imagination.



## United Women in Faith (A.K.A. United Methodist Women)

After a short break for the holidays, Holt United Women in Faith will begin the new year with the annual Valentines for Vets event on Monday, January 15, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the East Room. This event is hosted by the Maudy Priscilla Circle and all are invited to participate and share in the fellowship and creativity. Karen Syroka provides everything needed to construct the 200+ hand-crafted Valentines. They are then delivered to the Ingham County VA Office and the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor to spread a little love to our veterans. Join us! As indicated in last month's Hotline, all you need are the abilities to stamp and glue. Your efforts will be rewarded once the Valentines are completed with a wonderful dessert prepared by Holt United Women in Faith. If you have questions, please contact the Maudy Priscilla circle chair, Karol Fry at fry@msu.edu or 517.525.6561. The Caroline Circle will begin 2024 with a soup luncheon and program on Tuesday, February 20, beginning at noon in the East Room. Any and all are invited to attend. If you have questions about the Caroline Circle, please contact Mary McPherran at marymcph@comcast.net or 847.287.5146. If you have ideas and/or suggestions for programs that fit into the two primary social issues of United Methodist Women in 2024: **Climate Justice** and **Eliminating the school to prison pipeline**, please share those with Sharon Smith at sharonanddicksmit@gmail.com or 517.648.1333. As the year progresses we hope to bring some new and exciting mission opportunities for the women at Holt UMC and beyond. Watch the Hotline for more information and details. UWFaith Vision: ***We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.***

---



The HUMC/MSU Concession Team has wrapped up the MSU football season and is now selling concessions at the Breslin Center for the 2023-24 Women's Basketball season. Below is the home game MSU Spartan's Women's Basketball Schedule. Please consider all of the dates listed and let us know your availability to work any of these events.

### MSU Women's Basketball Schedule (Home Games)

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Jan. 9 (Tue) 6 PM vs. Maryland     | 5. Feb. 5 (Mon) 6 PM vs. Minnesota   |
| 2. Jan. 17 (Wed) 6:30 PM vs. Nebraska | 6. Feb. 11 (Sun) 4 PM vs. Ohio State |
| 3. Jan. 24 (Wed) 6:30 PM vs. Purdue   | 7. Feb. 24 (Sat) 2 PM vs. Rutgers    |
| 4. Jan. 27 (Sat) 12 PM vs. Michigan   | 8. Feb. 29 (Thu) 8 PM vs. Illinois   |



To volunteer contact Joe Lessard, John Busley or Bruce Rochowiak.

New and renewed MSU volunteer background checks may be initiated with MSU at <https://concessions.rhs.msu.edu/volunteer-application-and-background-check-authorization-form>

---

## Library News

**Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In **Braiding Sweetgrass**, Kimmerer brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgement and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings are we capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learning to give our own gifts in return.



# Red Bird Mission Trip

For many years now, groups from Holt UMC have been traveling to Beverly, Kentucky to do missions work at the Red Bird Mission. The Red Bird Mission was established in 1921 and has been serving southeastern Kentucky ever since. They do so much important work there

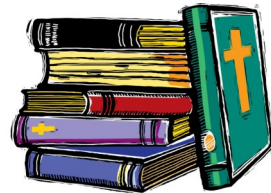


ministering to people through education, healthcare, affordable & safe housing, and so much more. Our group will help to make homes safe for people who live in the area and are ministered to by the Red Bird Mission. We are looking at taking a group down there either in early March or in the last week of March. Please contact John Busley (517-285-7752) or the church office by Feb. 15th to express interest in participating or with more questions.

---

## Did you know....?

Our church has a library. When was the last time you browsed the shelves for a good book? It has probably been awhile. We wanted to make it a little easier for you so we went ahead and got a bright red book cart that will act as our mini-library in the main hallway. We are excited to see this cart get used and books getting read.



## Connect with Us

*Rev. Anita K. Hahn, pastor*  
2321 N. Aurelius Road | Holt, MI 48842

**517-694-8168**

[holtumc@gmail.com](mailto:holtumc@gmail.com) | [www.holtumc.org](http://www.holtumc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/holtumc/](https://www.facebook.com/holtumc/)

