

Hotline

April | 2024

April Hungry World

The Hungry World Offering for April goes to Baby Boxes at Soaring Unlimited in Haiti. These cardboard boxes are covered with contact paper and given to new moms in Haiti. These boxes have a mattress and cover, a blanket, socks, onesies, diapers, pins, a toy and sleeper with mosquito netting on top. What a wonderful place for a newborn to be protected from insects, rats and livestock. Each mother who takes an infant care class receives a "Baby Box." Please give generously for those new lives in Haiti. For more information see Dorothy Frederickson.



The United Methodist Church General Conference 2020

Yes, that's right, General Conference (GC) 2020 is finally going to happen, after being postponed three times since originally scheduled due to COVID-19. Along with the time, April 23, 2024 through May 3, 2024, the location has also changed to Charlotte, North Carolina. Legislation submitted for consideration in 2020 still stands, there was an opportunity to submit new proposals as well.

Annual Rummage Sale

Join us for our Annual Rummage Sale on April 12 & 13! Donations will be accepted on Thursday April 11 from 9 AM to 6 PM. You can donate your clean and gently used clothing and other household goods. Please, no electronics or furniture. We can use volunteers on Thursday to help sort incoming items — you can come for an hour or the whole day. Then we can also use volunteers during the sale on Friday April 12 from 9 AM to 6 PM and Saturday April 13 from 9 AM to 12 PM. If you would like to, we would also appreciate donations of food to help feed our volunteers. You can sign up in the Welcome Area at church or contact Margaret Brown for more info. The proceeds of the sale will support general missions of the church.



Yellow Barrel Sunday

The Mission Team is announcing a new mission giving opportunity. Starting in April, the 4th Sunday of every month will be "Yellow Barrel Sunday." We have a yellow barrel in the narthex to collect items for the **City Rescue Mission of Lansing**. We have not promoted this a lot but will start doing so. The Mission serves meals (365 daily), overnight housing (244 per night), offers counseling and more. When you are shopping pick up ONE item or more from the list. Please no food for this collection. Please save the ongoing list of items to shop for.



~The Mission Team

For Official 2020 GC news and information turn to these sources:

ResourceUMC.org/GC2020

UM News Coverage of General conference UMNEWS.org

Please pray for the participants, Clergy and Lay, as they gather from around the world.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 1 Jessie Gimm-Bergh
Madelyn Roush
- 4 Chris Graham
- 5 Betty Guile
Ramon Waltz
Phoebe Grace Warfield
- 6 Jacob Hetchler
- 11 Lynne Ruetenik
- 14 John Osburn
- 16 Alison Nuffer
- 19 Jason Roberts
- 20 Denise Shattuck
- 21 Michele Childs
- 23 Ann Griffin
- 24 Joann Alderman
- 25 Joel Vanburen

- 26 Melinda Gatteri
Gretchen Williams
- 27 Jennifer Wheeler



- 19 Ruth & Barry Oleksyk

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



Chelsea Bolas—Safety for Jaxon, my former foster kiddo; Mary Toll—Strength to step out of my

comfort zone; Dennis & Denise Kelley—Praise the Lord Denise’s cancer treatments are complete; For a daughter-in-law whose father passed away; Cheryl Ordway—For a good friend who was just diagnosed with cancer; For a 4 month old grandson who had surgery March 4; For those who are in pain; Joe & Kathy Lessard—watch over Joe having a health issue, nothing major at this point; Holly Scott-Hetchler—For Bob Scott recovering from open heart surgery; For Mary Odiorne in hospice; For a young man, Quinton, suffering from severe depression; For Barb McMillan who fell, broke her right hip, fractured her right hand, and had hip surgery; For Sharon Joslyn (mother of Gordon & Cheryl Galloway’s daughter-in-law) who is in the hospital; A son facing a serious medical issue; Prayers for all our homebound, cancer patients, and surgery patients; for the lost and the lonely and all the special unspoken requests

From the CEC

Teacher Spotlight — Miss Angie!

Miss Angie has been at the CEC for 10 years! Angie enjoys reading with the kids and talking about animals with them. They seem so interested in seeing real pictures of animals that they don’t normally see. They love learning what sounds they make. They also enjoy music and they love to dance! Miss Angie is a loving, caring teacher and really is good at teaching them all of their Pre-K skills to go on to Kindergarten! We love and appreciate Miss Angie!



Holt UMC Softball Season

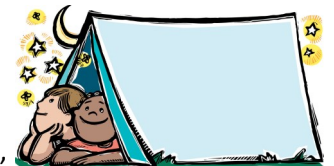
Spring has sprung....well, at least some days anyway, and that means it is time to shake off the rust and come play softball with the HUMC softball team. Games start Tuesday April 30th, and go through Tuesday July 23rd. All games are Tuesday night doubleheaders beginning at 6:30pm. Games are played in Delta Township at either Sharp Park or Delta Mills Park. Look for a schedule in the upcoming Hotlines Contact Stephanie Horn at (517) 282-4080 or srs_niner@yahoo.com for more information. Practices will be held Sunday April 21st, and Sunday April 28th from 12-2pm at Kiwanis Park in Holt.



Summer Camping Opportunities

LAKE LOUISE “FREE” FAMILY SATURDAY, April 6, 2024

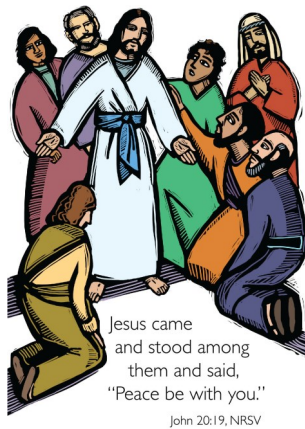
Saturday, April 6, come with your family for the day and enjoy lake Louise Camp, 11037 Thumb Lake Rd., Boyne Falls, MI and check out the Maple Syrup operation. Hotdog roast around noon. RSVP’s appreciated.



SUMMER FAMILY CAMP, July 12-14, 2024

Join your church family this summer! Contact Lake Michigan Campground @ info@lakemichigancamp.org, 231-869-5627 Meals, fellowship, free time and worship coordinated with one another. Rates \$36-80 per night depending on the amenities you want. If you need any gear or help, contact Patty Leonard at: 517-719-4697.

Worship Together



April 7

**2nd Sunday of Easter —
“Meeting Jesus Up Close”
John 20:19-29**

We have met Jesus at the table numerous times before and after his death. We now meet Jesus in the upper room. The resurrected Jesus who reveals himself in the flesh. But, someone is missing from this scene. It is Thomas who is remembered for his doubt. He hears this unbelievable story. Once filled with doubt, Thomas gets to see and believe. “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” -John 20:29



April 14

**3rd Sunday of Easter —
“What God Does”
Acts 10:1-48**

“Acts encourages us to look for opportunities to welcome,

include, and commit ourselves to others not as polite things to do but as moments of divine revelation.” (Acts: Catching up with the Spirit, Matthew L. Skinner, page 58). It is like we are hearing God say, “Stop making excuses or stop using what I said, against me! What part of, ‘Love your neighbor’ are you having a difficult time with?” This week we will encounter Peter’s vision and how it impacted his life, forever.



April 21

**4th Sunday of Easter —
“Growing in Grace (Discipline)”
Acts 5:1-11**

There are some stories that I wonder if they have been preserved simply for the shock effect. This week we encounter one of those as we read the words of Acts 5. We will meet Ananias and Sapphira who only gave a portion of what they received from the sale of a piece of land. We will come to understand that it wasn’t about not doing what was asked by God, but lying about it.

Join us in-person at 9:30 AM & 11 AM on Sundays.
Watch the live-stream at www.facebook.com/holtumc/



April 28

**5th Sunday of Easter —
“Opposition Turned Friend”
Acts 8:1-3; Acts 9:19-22; Acts 9:25-31**

What does it look like when one who persecutes you, finds Jesus and now is “on your side?” Saul persecuted the early Christian Church until he had a Holy encounter with Jesus- blinded by the light of God he found himself in the home of Ananias. Ananias cared for him and helped him understand the Jesus who had changed his life, forever. We’ll take a glimpse at the power of God in the lives of his people.

Church Social

You are invited to join Cheryl Galloway and Michelle Martin on **Saturday, May 4th from 2:30-4:00** in the East Room. We will be painting rocks for spring gardens or to share with a friend. This event is for all ages. We hope you will join us and bring a friend. Volunteers to bring refreshments are appreciated.



Stories are all around us. We read them in books. We listen to them on podcasts. We watch them on Netflix. Stories do more than entertain; they have a way of shaping our world. Before they shape our own, they transport us into another world. We enter in, either as a fly on the wall or a character we relate with. Often we are the hero. Like a dream unfolding we watch the story play out. The hero is us; and yet, we know not what they will do next. Before you know it, you know what they are thinking and feeling. This is the power of story.

We have been meeting Jesus at the table. These stories started coming to life as a table emerged out of nowhere into our sanctuary. The church kitchen began filling with people making food as we gathered around tables to eat. Conversations started growing around the table. These stories became a little bit more real. Jesus was more flesh and bone and yet not any less divine. We witnessed miracles. We witnessed audacious interruptions of Jesus' feet washed with tears and perfume. We listened to a story of a great banquet where the expected guests refused their invitations and so the invitation was sent out to the rest of us. The marginalized folks who never get invited were invited to a feast. God continues to invite us into the story.

The bible is full of stories. These stories have been told over and over again for hundreds of years. They are not stories of perfect people but rather broken people. They are what my dad would call down-to-earth folks. Just look at the book of Genesis and we see persons with problems. Father Abraham is the father of a dysfunctional family. This is the root of the entire Jewish lineage. Such stories are not told for us to repeat such dysfunction but rather to tell a better, more interesting story with our own lives.

As we gather around tables there are often multiple generations sitting together. Each generation has a different story to tell. The younger generation looks to the older generation for stories. The church has a beautiful tradition of passing on stories. These stories shape us. They shape how we view the world. The story benefits the teller and the audience. May we all tell our stories.

As a church we are casting out a new vision as we ask God what the story for Holt United Methodist Church is. The story is being played out in real time. We each have a role to play in the story. How is God working through you? What story is being played out around us as the spirit weaves a beautiful tapestry? Where are we going to meet Jesus next?



Share Your Stories

Meeting Jesus at the Table

Poem by David LaLone

We left an empty chair for Elijah
But Jesus came to the door and knocked
We answered with suspicion
We opened in shock
We welcomed with trepidation
We greeted bashfully
It's Friday night and the teacher has
come to dine with us

Martha, have we got enough to eat?
Mary's already claimed her spot
Next to Jesus at the table
She's already making small talk
Lazarus is dying to eat
Martha declares the dinner served
Time to pray
Who's turn is it to pray?

Awkward silence descends upon the room
Eyes are shuffling
Lap napkins ruffling
Palms are sweating
Jesus chuckles and motions for me
I clear my throat
Bow my head
And pray an honest prayer
Amen we say

Dinner commences
Dishes are passed
Plates are filled
Words are few at first
I ask Jesus about his day
He said it really wore him out
Heavy words penetrating men's chest

Mary listens to his every word
We all do our best
To converse with God in flesh
And at our table of all places

How does one break bread
With the son of man
Who claims to be the bread of life?

We sit in awe
At the table where we all belong

We sit in awe
At the table where we all belong

Who has the guts to pray in front of Jesus?
Will anyone's words be elegant enough?
What if I stumble and stutter?

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

United Women in Faith: A reminder if you'd like to join a group of women from Holt UMC who meet once a month to enjoy and participate in a lesson/program of interest, to remember missionaries, and to pray for praises and concerns plus get to know others with like interests: Maudy Priscilla Circle meets on the third Monday at 7 p.m. in Youth Room 2 at the church, and Caroline Circle meets on the third Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the East Room. If you don't have time or if "meetings" aren't your thing, consider membership at large as a way to financially support and/or actively participate in projects that enrich women, children and youth locally, statewide and internationally. Contact Mary McPherran, membership chair at marymcp@comcast.net for more information.

Coming up in May, we are offering a very interesting program entitled, "ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: A Call to Hope and Action. Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. All are welcome, invited and encouraged to attend to learn about the realities of environment injustice, a Biblical framework for creation care and suggestions for prophetic action.

United Methodist Women, d/b/a United Women in Faith supports nearly 90 National Mission Institutions in the United States. In Michigan, we are proud to support the expansion of the campus as well as the services of United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids. The UMCH was started in 1902 by a group of Grand Rapids United Methodist Women who began by offering classes for kindergarten and early elementary girls. By the second year, boys were included, and the programs provided were Bible study, citizenship, cooking, sewing and crafts. Today UMCH provides care, services, and counseling to families, for infants, children, youth, adults, and seniors. In the past 18 months, UMCH has introduced The Fresh Market that offers affordable access to healthy, locally sourced food to Kent County residents while supporting Michigan growers and good food systems. Other UWFaith National Mission Institutions nearby are Red Bird Mission in Kentucky (where HUMC folks visit annually) and the Friendly Center in Toledo, Ohio. For a complete list of National Mission Institutions, please visit uwfaith.org. Holt UWFaith is proud to support UMCH as well as Red Bird Mission directly.

Coming soon:

5/14 Environmental Justice

5/17-18 District Spiritual Growth Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt

5/30-6/2 North Central Jurisdiction (United Women in Faith) Quadrennial event, Indianapolis, IN

5/30-6/2 Michigan UMC Annual Conference, Grand Traverse Resort, Acme.

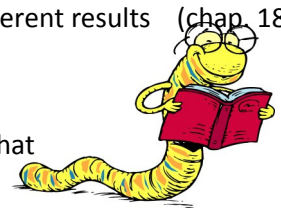
Library News

The 2024 books purchased by the United Women in Faith (UMW) are now on the cart in the library for all readers to enjoy.

Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart by Gordon Livingston will capture your attention with these chapter headings:

- We are what we do (chap. 2)
- There is nothing more pointless, or common than doing the same thing and expecting different results (chap. 18)
- Mental health requires freedom of choice (chap. 29)

The author's essays say the hard things that we need to know if we are to be stronger, better, more generous, more courageous, kinder. He warns us how little we control and reminds us that "We are never out of choices, no matter how desperate the circumstances.



Caroline Circle Event

Caroline Circle will be hosting a guest speaker from the Tri-County Office on Aging at their next meeting on April 16th. If you are interested in finding out about services that are available, we invite you to join us. All are welcome attend. The presentation will begin at 1:30 in the East Room. Refreshments will be provided. Please plan on joining us! If you have any questions, please see or contact Mary McPherran at 847-287-5146 or at marymcp@comcast.net.

Ministry Team Spotlight

Property Team

The Property Team currently consists of the following individuals: Jeff Kegler (Chair), John Osbun, Rod Simonson, Pete Gatteri and Kevin Hahn. The Property Team is charged with the responsibility of supervision, oversight, care and maintenance of the real property of the church and all property and equipment acquired by any organization connected to the church. This shall also include proper care of the church's legal records and regular inventory of its property. The Property Team is also responsible for the annual review and adequacy of all insurance policies of the church in addition to all contracts for the ongoing use of the church. Some of the building projects authorized by the Property Team in 2023 included the last phase of the Fellowship Hall kitchen remodeling, Library remodeling, new Youth Room carpet, Fellowship Hall painting, new AED, and a fence at the parsonage, along with tree removal and trimming. We are currently in the process of prioritizing projects for 2024. The Property Team meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and we would welcome additional members to the team. Feel free to contact Jeff Kegler at (517) 896-2672 or fifty4keg@aol.com, or Pastor Anita if you need more information or have a desire to join our team.



The UMC Michigan Annual Conference

The Annual Conference (AC) of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church is set to be held May 30, 2024 through June 1, 2024 in Acme, Michigan. Maynard Hamilton, Lyle Edinger, and Pastor Anita Hahn will be your representatives. Li Hahn, Dokoda Holt-Sharp, and Sharon Smith will also be there representing different parts of the district or conference

Information about AC can be found here: <https://2024.michiganumc.org/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Maynard Hamilton, (517) 243-3409, hamiltonef@hotmail.com, and I will do my best to answer you.

Connect with Us

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