



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A Monthly Publication of Community United Methodist Church-1614 Ruddiman Dr North Muskegon, MI 49445

SEPTEMBER 2017 - Vol 17 Issue 9



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 5th
Red Cross Blood
Drive from
Noon-6pm

Sept 10th
Junior Worship,
Middle/High
School Youth
Groups KICK OFF!

Sept 18th
Starting Line Party
after 1st Service

I've been planning confirmation class. It starts September 10th. I start a planning process with checking on my goals. What do I want for every young person who shows up for confirmation this year? Do I want them all to become biblical scholars? Do I want them all to understand the ancient traditions of Christian tradition? What about how the United Methodist Church works (or doesn't work)? Maybe I want all of them to take the vows of church membership at the end of this process.

None of these answers seems quite right, so I think about the whole congregation, and ask what I want for the rest of you, regardless of your age. Well, that's pretty simple: I want you to be a life-long, growing follower of Jesus, and as part of that, I want you to be engaged in Jesus' work of making the world better through acts of love.

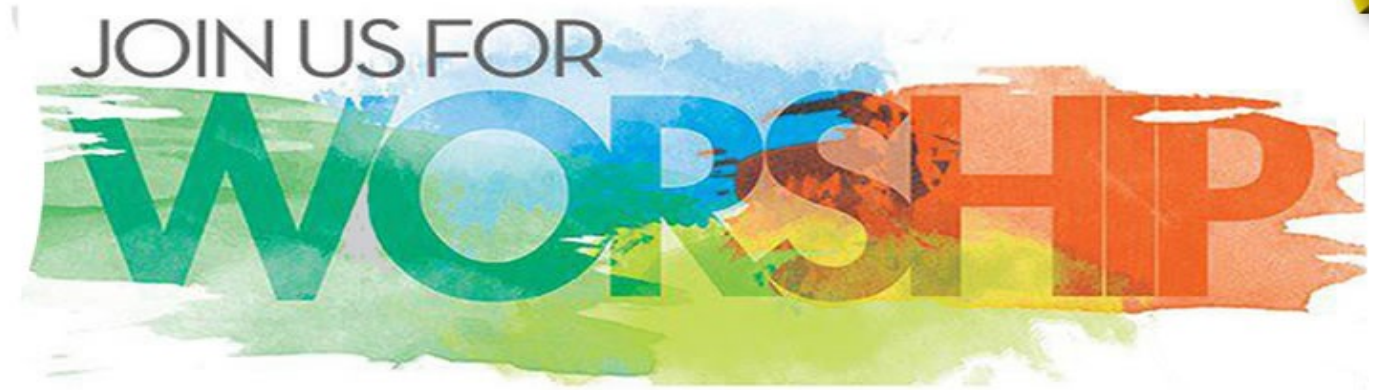
So confirmation class is going to include a few things designed to lead students in that direction. I hope that you'll be examples, and commit yourselves to the same things:

- * Daily prayer, including meditating on Scripture, and journaling daily about the experience of prayer.
- * Shared acts of service as a group and privately, also recorded in a journal.
- * Having regular contact with an adult spiritual mentor and with the pastor.

Church membership seems like the end goal of confirmation, but membership is not a goal in itself. The goal is to keep becoming better followers of Jesus. Membership can be a marker on the path. I have known plenty of high school and college students who turned away from faith as soon as they left home. The reason was that they had never made these kinds of spiritual practices part of their lives. Their so-called faith depended on being at youth group and on parents who kept them involved. When they aged out of youth group, they had no idea how to continue the Christian life. That means that their church, and perhaps also their family, failed them. We need to do better. We begin by being spiritual examples to our young people, whom they can respect and imitate along their path.

Confirmation is typically offered for students starting seventh grade, but this time, we're including students through tenth grade. We'll start with ten weeks, starting Sunday, September 10, at 5 p.m. at the church. At the end of ten weeks, students will have the chance to sign up for a spring retreat. If you know someone who could be participating in confirmation, please encourage them. And if I call you asking you to mentor one of our youth, please step up.

Blessings
Pastor Jeremy



<p>September 3: Commitment It's communion Sunday at both services. Anyone is welcome to share in communion, if you want to be a follower of Jesus. It's also family camp weekend at Lake Michigan United Methodist Camp in Pentwater. Jeremy plans to be at both services at Community that morning.</p>	
<p>9:00 Message from 1 Timothy 5:1-5, which reminds us to honor and look after our elders.</p>	<p>11:00 We're back inside!! Message from Ruth 1:6-18, about how we choose the deep commitments we make, and how following through on commitment changes the future.</p>
<p>September 10: Communication This is the week when we begin elementary Sunday School during 11:00 worship, for kids through fourth grade. We also begin youth groups for grades 5-12 at 6 p.m. and confirmation at 5:00.</p>	
<p>9:00 Message from Colossians 3:7-10 about avoiding bad habits of communication. Who doesn't have a few troubles with communicating?</p>	<p>11:00 Message from a surprising story about communication and digging to hear the messages behind the words that people say. Do you always say what you mean? Genesis 33:1-17.</p>
<p>September 17: Play Start Your Engines! We're having a party in the parking lot today, from 10 to 12, to launch the school year with fun. Bring all your friends!</p>	
<p>9:00 How important it is to let go of our stiff ways of thinking and living and to open ourselves to being children! Matthew 18:1-7</p>	<p>11:00 Worship in the parking lot (weather permitting!) with the band and a message about play, while you're there for all the fun.</p>
<p>September 24: Forgiveness Forgiveness is not permission to do wrong again, but it is almost a daily requirement in a healthy relationship or a happy home. And that is probably why Jesus made such a big deal of it!</p>	
<p>9:00 The biblical writer Paul talks about being "clothed in love." Would that make your heart look big? Message from Colossians 3:12-17.</p>	<p>11:00 Jesus paused to explain one part of the prayer that he taught his disciples. That's right: the part about forgiving people. But sometimes it's really hard to do! Message from Matthew 6:9-15.</p>

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Help boost the Red Cross blood supply by donating Tuesday, September 5th from noon-6pm in our fellowship hall. Volunteers also needed for registration and canteen. For information, contact Kim Wood at 670.3969

ACOLYTE OPPORTUNITY

The Acolyte program will start up again this fall and I encourage all youngsters in first grade and up to join! This is a great way for kids to participate in the service and feel special. Acolytes are used in both the first and second service. Training will be held after school in September. If you are interested in having your child/children participate please let me know and information will be forthcoming. Julie Cutler email: jacot2254@msn.com Ph# 231-744-5824 or 231-750-0847

SNACKS FOR KIDS WORSHIP

Individually wrapped snacks needed for kids worship. Drop off your donation in the kids worship room.

YOUNG ADULT COMMITTEE NEEDS ADDRESSES

Throughout the year, our youth adult committee (YAC—headed up by Deb Boes and Becky Fairfield) sends thoughtful cards and gifts to the young people of our church. The mailings go to those who have graduated high school thru mid 20's. They may be in college and need a pick me up or starting a job and need some encouragement. The mailings help convey to them that they are thought of and, as a church, we're standing behind them. If you have someone you want to receive these mailings, please send their name and address to Wendy in the church office. Or if there is a change of address we need to be aware of, please send those along, as well.

ATTENTION ALL MEN!!!

You're invited to a special MEN'S DAY PROGRAM on Saturday, Sept 23rd from 8am-12:30pm at The Frauenthal Center. The event is FREE and the theme is "Ignite Your Passion for God." There will be 3 speakers discussing the topics of diversity, passion, and life story. Here Rev Jeff Bowman, Rev Dr. H. Michael Lemmon, and Retired Major Brian Shul, USAF. These passionate speakers will build excitement and encourage men's hearts. For more information, contact George Harryman at 231.744.7325

JOIN THE CHOIR!

Singing builds confidence, reduces stress and anxiety, and raises endorphins. No kidding! So come out for a sing-along/potluck on Sept 7th and see what a great time we have!

CUMC adult choir performs during the school year at the 9:00am service. It's open to EVERYONE, including middle and high school students.

No audition is required. Music reading and some previous choral experience is helpful but certainly not required.

Regular rehearsals are Thursday evenings during the school year at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. Choir is open to new members all year around.

We want you on our team! Check us out on Thursday, Sept 7th at 7:00 @ Pastor Jeremy & Tamara's home (2317 Marquard). Bring your family and a finger food to pass. After we eat, those interested in choir will gather to sing a little while others will enjoy fellowship.

Questions? Contact our director, Kevin at 578-6884 or kevin@j-fins.com

ATTENTION KIDS AND TEENS!!!

Our Kids Worship and Youth Groups will start back up on Sunday, September 10th

Kids get the opportunity to experience God through hands on lessons during our 11am service.

(Kids through 2nd grade are welcome to our nursery during our 9am service where a lesson will be presented)

Teens, 5th-12th grade, get the chance to explore their faith with lessons, food, relaxing with friends, and playing games every Sunday night in the school year from 6-7:45pm. Middle school meets in the fellowship hall in the basement and senior high meets in Home Base upstairs.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will begin **Sunday, September 10th** from **5-6pm** each week in the fellowship hall. This 10-week class is for all 7th and 8th graders.

(or any older teens that may have missed a previous class and would like to be confirmed.)

STARTING LINE PARTY

You won't want to miss our *Starting Line* Sunday, September 17th! Join us as we START OFF fall with a party!

After our 9am service, we'll gather in our west parking lot for delicious breakfast food, games, bounce house and fantastic music from our 11am praise band. (Note: Our 11am service will be the party in the parking lot.)



If you would like to include news into the monthly newsletter, please submit an announcement form to the church office by the 20th of each month by dropping it off or emailing to:

wendy@communitychurchumc.org

Return Service Requested

NOTE: The church office will be closed Friday, Sept 1st and Monday, Sept 4th. The office will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, Sept 5th.

Community UMC Church
1614 Ruddiman
North Muskegon, MI 49445
231.744.4491

www.communitychurchumc.org



Like us on Facebook®

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WWW.COMMUNITYCHURCHUMC.ORG

Pastor:

Jeremy Williams—jeremy@communitychurchumc.org / 231.720.5422 (call or text)

Office Administrator:

Wendy Hodgins — wendy@communitychurchumc.org

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

2—Gary & Diane Martin*
3—Nancy Batch, Lorna Schroeder
4—Riley Fairfield, Thayer Lowe
5—Robin Greiner, Bill Weipert, Bev Cygeirt
6—Mark & Nancy Dolle*, Don & Ellen Tubergen*
7—Cindy Meyering, Bryan Hill
8—Bill Eckert, Ava Zelinsky
9—Ingrid Porritt
10—Clieve & Maxine Hendrick*, Herb & Anne Bevelhymer*
15—Marilyn Swanson, Garth & Sandy Reynolds*
16—Tom & Pat Baker*

17—Alison Lang
22—Don & Sharon Aley*
23—Jean Moore, Matt Vander Velde
28—Nancy Dolle
29—Joe Osborn
30—Linda Bouwman

* denotes anniversary