



## GUNNISONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Est. 1888

**July and August Newsletter**

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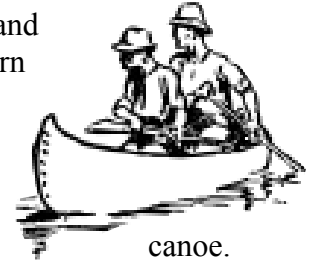
*In the Prayer Garden*

Church Phone: (517) 482-7987

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Dear friends,

By now you are probably aware that I will soon be joining John Suppnick and two other brave souls on a weeklong trip in the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota. We will take this journey in canoes, paddling across beautiful lakes. But, of course, the only way to get from lake to lake is by portaging the canoes on our backs and then making a second trip to transport all of our gear. There is a certain rhythm in this means of transportation: paddle and portage, paddle and portage, ride in the canoe and then carry the



canoe.

It occurs to me that this parallels the spiritual journey we all share. We go back and forth between receiving and offering ministry. Sometimes we are carried by others, sometimes we are the ones doing the lifting. Paul tells us, *“Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day’s out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ’s law.”*

– Galatians 6:1-2 – The Message

Of course that is not the only similarity between this canoe trip and our spiritual journey. Both are ventures into the unknown. So, just like it is essential that my friends and I make sure we have a good set of maps to guide us along the way, we all must regularly consult our spiritual map as we are set on the right course by reading the Bible. After all we can affirm, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* – Psalm 119:105

If you have ever seen a topological map you know how challenging it can be to read. Likewise, the words of scripture are not always easily understood. So, with our maps and with the Bible it is helpful to let others help us interpret what we read, especially those who have experience. Like Mary went to her older cousin Elizabeth after she learned she would give birth to the Son of God.

Of course, no map is of value if you do not know how to find true north. So, on our canoe trip we will make sure we have a good compass. In our spiritual journey we all need a compass, a way to get our bearings, a way to apply God’s Word to our daily lives. I believe that “compass” is prayer. As we “pray without ceasing” we will find God’s answer to Paul’s prayer, *“I ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory, to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for Christians.”*

– Ephesians 1:17-18 – The Message

One more analogy: On this trip I’m going to try something I haven’t done since my honeymoon. I’m going to go fishing. I will rely on John’s expertise and even use his gear. It’s

hard to say how successful I will be. But I couldn't help but think of a step of faith Andrew and Simon Peter took when they responded to Jesus' invitation, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." – Mark 1:17 – The Message

Mark tells us, "They didn't ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed." May we all do the same!

Your pastor,  
Mark

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### JUNE BIRTHDAY DINNER



Connie  
Higbee, Allen  
Barker, Kathy

LeFever, Lora Mae  
Cable, Joyce  
Hundt

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

04 Dorothy Harris  
04 Julie Proux  
09 Johnie Johnson  
13 Bonnetta Placer  
13 Lyle Sample

14 Jerry Taylor  
19 Dustin Cable  
19 Phyllis Murray  
23 Ross Hill  
23 Phyllis Rhynard

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

01 Eloise Mahoney  
02 Diana Sebolt  
05 Bill Barker  
06 Virginia Zeeb  
08 Michael Hundt  
09 Jane Casler  
11 Lou Chisholm

11 Ross Wilkinson  
15 Beri Wolford  
17 Glenna Hawk  
21 Gary Baker  
21 Nicholas Reed  
28 Katey Kelly

## **JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

07 Jim and Barb Wicker  
09 Marv and Phyllis Rhynard  
26 Jeff and Dawn Kelly

## **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

06 Leo and Kay Jolley  
09 Jerry and Sandy Taylor  
22 Allen and Elaine Cable

## **JULY HOSTESSES**

05 Florence and Katie  
12 Bea Shirey  
18 Florence  
26 Kathryn Reed

## **AUGUST HOSTESSES**

02 Connie LaFever  
09 Florence  
16 Norma Jean  
23 Alice Clark  
30 Lora Mae

## **SUNDAY JULY 12**

Fun day. Outside church services under the tent at 9:15. Birthday potluck at 12:30. Ice cream social at 2:30 and many other fun activities.

## **SUNDAY AUGUST 23**

Birthday potluck at 12:30 in Fellowship Hall.

## **SCHEDULING OF CHURCH EVENTS**

Call Florence Hartman at (517) 668-0489 to schedule events

## **SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Sunday August 23  
bbest@4wbi.net

## **SERVICE CLUB JULY**

The next meeting of the Service Club will be held on Wednesday, July 8 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a speaker who will talk about her book, "*Grandpa's Tooth*". Please bring a sandwich. Everyone is welcome.

## **SERVICE CLUB AUGUST**

The August Service Club meeting will be held Wednesday, August 12 at the Fellowship Hall. A project will be announced later. Bring a sandwich and everyone is welcome.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee will meet on July 28, 7:00 PM at the home of Ron and Johanna Balzer. The main item on the agenda will be planning the 2010 Commitment Campaign. Please submit any other items for the agenda to Johanna Balzer by July 26.

## **GOLF OUTING SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2009**

We will be having a Golf Outing at Twin Oaks Golf Course (just north of St. Johns, just beyond Mead Road on the left). Tee off time is set for 2:00PM. We will be playing a 9 hole scramble with some fun mixed in. After golf we will be going to the Wheel Inn restaurant in St. Johns for dinner and prizes. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not play golf, but would like to join us for dinner, please sign up on the golf sheet. The cost for golf is \$7.00 for seniors (62 years and over), \$10.00 for everyone else and \$5.00 per person for the cart. At the restaurant, everyone will be ordering off the menu and will pay for their own dinner. I will need an idea how many persons there will be in order to let the golf course and restaurant know a week before the event. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Drolett at (517) 668-9035 or catch me at church.

## **LUGNUTS GAME SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009**

We will be going to the Lugnut's game again this year. Our past two years have been a lot of fun. If you would like to join us, there is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. The tickets are \$8.00 per person. I will need to know how many tickets to have available by Sunday, June 28. Currently I have 30 tickets set aside for us. I will be arranging for transportation from the church to the stadium and back so no one will have to worry about parking at the ball park. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Drolett (517) 668-9035 or catch me at church.

4.



### **THYME IN A GARDEN**

**By Lorna Coulter**

Thyme is a perennial that may be grown as an annual in cold climates. Thyme prefers poor, fairly rocky soil. From early to mid-summer whorls of lilac to pink, tubular flowers grow in clusters at the tips of the branches. Several varieties of thyme are available.

**Thymol:** the essential oil present in thyme, is strongly antibacterial, hence its reputation as an herbal disinfectant. A thyme mouthwash is also helpful for gum infection and can also be used for sore throats, irritable coughs and bronchitis.

**Thymus:** From the Greek word mean courage or from a term meaning to cleanse or fumigate.

According to a curious old superstition, planting a bed of thyme in the garden would either bring fairies to the home or enable one to catch sight of them. So far there have not been any sightings by this gardener and I probably wouldn't admit to it even if I thought I may have seen one or two.

Traditionally this herb is included in sausages, meatloaf and stuffing mixtures, but I use it in chicken dishes, soup grilled or baked fish or mix it with a combination of other herbs.

### **Tilapia Thyme**

I use a glass pie plate and pour in ranch dressing.

I dip each piece of fish in the dressing and then in bread crumbs mixed with fresh or dried chopped thyme.

Place the fish on a cookie sheet and bake in the oven for approximately 20 minutes, turning each piece at least once.

Sometimes I sprinkle a little extra thyme on top along with some shredded cheese. I'll let you be the judge of how it tastes.

5.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

**July 12, 2009:** The Sunday school will be the GLO helpers.

**July 26, 2009** The Sunday school will go to the East Lansing Water Park at noon. The cost is \$7.00 for those over 48 inches and \$6.00 for those under. Ages 2 and under free. There will be a picnic lunch.

**August 16, 2009** there will be no Sunday school. The nursery will be available.

## **THE EARLY DAYS**

By Lois R. Baumer

After its opening in 1888, our church held services for a number of years, however, during the 1920's it fell victim to the depression and declining attendance and was closed for a period of approximately ten years. It was re-opened in 1937 by retired minister, Reverend Carl Seipp, who had served as an elder in the earlier times of the church.

My family started attending this church on the day it reopened in 1937 and to date, I have relied on my memories of that period of church history commencing with my very early childhood.

Recently, I came upon a rather extensive story about our Gunnisonville area from a local historian, Ken Coin. Although the dates in our records do not always agree with Mr. Coin's, the story is basically the one which we had found while researching the history for our State and National Historical Designation as a part of the Bi-Centennial Celebration in 1976. The historical markers both on the church and school date from the Bi-Centennial time. My thanks to Florence for making me aware of this source.

Quoting Mr. Coin: "Church meetings began in Gunnisonville around 1840 in log houses of the residents. After a log school was built around 1843. (Note: Our records indicate that the original school actually started in 1835. The school referred to by him is apparently the second one on that site). Church meetings by both Methodists and Baptists were held in the school building."

"On January 19, 1862 a small group of residents of the Gunnison neighborhood met at the Gunnison school to organize the area's first church. It was formed as the Methodist Episcopal Church, DeWitt Circuit, Lansing District, Michigan Conference. H. Hall was the presiding elder at the organizational meeting. James Roberts is recorded as preacher and Thomas Robbins as leader."

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(My Note: among the list of people attending that early meeting the name of Lavina Stampfly appears. She was the mother of Larry Stampfly. He and his wife, Margaret remained members throughout their lifetime serving the church in many capacities as well as our 4-H Leader, school teacher, etc. Many of us refer to her as "our Margaret Stampfly" and is remembered with great love by many in our congregation).

"The congregation met in the school house for twenty years. The idea of building a church was contemplated many times, but it was not until 1885 that it was again suggested by Reverend McNutt that it be given serious consideration. The Ladies Aid was organized that year and it was mainly through their efforts that the project was completed in 1888. They raised money in several ways and were aided financially by the Sons of Temperance".

"The cost of construction was \$3,000.00 and upon completion it was owned jointly by the church and The Sons of Temperance who used the basement area as a meeting hall. The land for the church was donated by the Phillip Kraus family."

"On October 18, 1888, the St. John's Republican reported:

*The new brick church at Gunnison's in DeWitt will be dedicated on November 4, 1888. Elder W.H. Thompson will preach the sermon in the morning and services in German will be in the*

*afternoon. Services will follow each evening in the week. Rev.D.M. Ward will have charge of the Pastorate.”*

“Andrew West, who lived north of the church cut trees in his woods, sawed the lumber and built the pews in his barn for the church”. (Note: Our records indicate that the pews were built in the barn of Adam Rupp. He and his wife Sarah were the first couple married in this church. It is also recorded that Clark Livermore dug the gravel and Ephriam Henderson hauled it to the church site. Other men hauled stone, lumber and bricks while others aided in the construction, carpentry work and painting. The Ladies Aid furnished meals for all of the workers.)

“The church carriage sheds were built about 1902, again by volunteer labor with the Ladies Aid furnishing three meals a day for the workers. After the coming of the automobile age, the sheds were removed”. (My Note: The women of our church have continued in this tradition many times supplying the meals as the men in our congregation worked on later projects here at the church).

The above is a small portion of the information regarding our beginnings as contained in Mr. Coin’s narrative and we will use other ones in future newsletters.

Lois R. Baumer, Chairperson Historical Committee

### **CHILDREN’S PLAY SET DEDICATION**

As part of Family Fun Day, the new children’s play set will be dedicated after the outdoor church service on Sunday, July 12, 2009. Pastor Mark will give a short dedication immediately after the benediction and the play set will be officially open for business! As shown in these pictures, it’s been used a great deal already by children of all ages!



Fun on the swings

Jaana

Ursula & John



Margie Dickson grew up in Lansing and has lived in Tennessee and in St. Johns. She celebrated her birthday on April 7, 1940 by getting married. From that marriage came four children, two boys and two girls, three of those children have passed away, two from heart attacks and one from an accident. She was a stay at home Mom. Several years after her first husband died, she remarried and moved to Tennessee. They were married 26 years when he passed away. She moved back to Michigan and lives in the St. Johns area with the joy of her life, her little dog, Pixie. Before the onset of failing eyesight she enjoyed crocheting, doing crossword puzzles, gardening and mowing her yard. She is blessed with an attentive and loving family who see that Margie is well taken care of.

She has been going to Gunnisonville Church for two years and on March 23, 2009 became a member of the church.



**FROM THE KITCHEN OF:**

Margie Dickson

**FOUR LAYER DESSERT**

- 1 cup of flour
- ½ cup margarine (melted)
- ½ cup chopped nuts
- 1 8 oz cool whip
- 1 8oz Philadelphia cream cheese
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 pks of 4 ½ oz instant chocolate pudding or pudding of your desire

3 cups milk

Mix flour, margarine and ¼ cup of chopped nuts together and spread over bottom of 9x13 Pyrex baking dish. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes or until brown. Watch carefully that it doesn't get over baked. Set aside crust to cool.

Mix softened cream cheese, powdered sugar and ½ of container of cool whip and spread over cooled crust.

Mix pudding with 3 cups of milk and spread over cheese layer

Cover pudding layer with remaining cool whip and sprinkle with rest of nuts.



**Jaana**

**Ursula Glasmacher**

**and**

Ursula is seven years old and is in second grade at the Riley Elementary School  
Jaana is three and stays home with Mom. She attends Pre-School Music classes. They are the children of Thomas and Ande Glasmacher

### **FATHER'S DAY AT GUNNISONVILLE CHURCH**

In the years long past, the youth of our church always participated in celebrations honoring their parents on Mother's Day and Father's Day. Those old fashioned programs usually included poems and songs saluting the ever important role our parents play in our lives from the earliest years through the growing up years. That practice has been abandoned in recent years. However, during the church service this past Sunday morning, June 21 our congregation had a delightful surprise when Ursula Glasmacher and her sister Jaana added to the Father's Day celebration by singing a special song honoring their father, Thomas Glasmacher.

Everyone got into the spirit by clapping in time to the music as the Glassmacher girls sang the refrain "DADDY O" which was sung to the tune of "B.I.N.G.O. Was His Name O". It was a

lovely way to honor our fathers and will be remembered for many years to come as they added a special moment to our memories. This will become a part of our new historical past at Gunnisonville United Methodist Church.

Lois Rhynard Baumer

*Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction:  
Pay attention and gain understanding  
I give you sound learning  
So do not forsake my teaching.  
Proverbs 4:1-2*