



From the Pastor's Desk...



"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:8 New Revised Standard Version)

Rabbi Abraham Heschel once said, "We are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have all the answers." I believe this with all my heart. To mature spiritually, we should ask questions that deepen our faith and solidify our relationship with God. And what better time to do just that than in our upcoming Lenten study?

This year, at our Lenten study, we will delve deep into questions Jesus asked in a six-week study by Magrey DeVega. Not only will these questions deepen our relationship with Christ, but we will also learn more about ourselves. Knowing who we are in Christ and how we fit into God's world is essential in our faith journey.

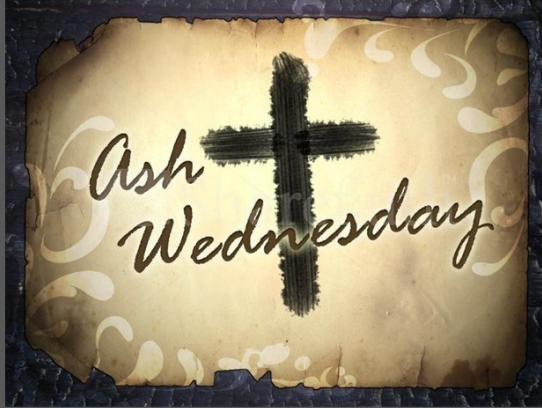
In DeVega's introduction to his book, he asks some critical questions we might want to explore. Like, what are your values? What gives you contentment? What are you to become? When we contemplate questions like these, we move toward realizing our full potential and fulfilling God's purpose for our lives. How exciting is it to recognize that we have this potential? What makes it so exciting is discovering our God-given potential. And what better time to do it than Lent? The Lenten season is the perfect time to unearth the breadth and depth of God's love, the grace freely given, and the blessings God has for each one of us.

My prayer for us during this Lenten season is to be open to change by understanding that discovering our God-given potential involves challenging ourselves to name the areas in our hearts that need transforming and healing so that we can become whole for God.

As always, I am grateful to have the gift of moving toward wholeness in Christ with all of you. May our Lenten journey be a time of renewal and spiritual growth.

Have a blessed Lent, my beloveds!

Michelle Forsyth



**Ash
Wednesday
Service
March 5th
12pm**



Lenten SOUP Suppers

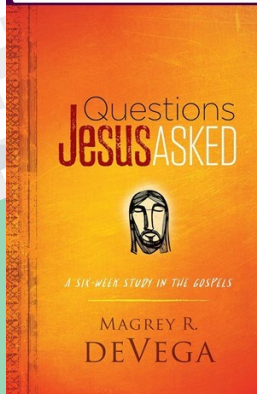
**Thursday
Evenings
6:00 p.m.**



March 6th
March 13th
March 20th
March 27th
April 3rd
April 10th

Sign up sheet to provide soup, etc. in Fellowship Hall

Lenten Bible Study "Questions Jesus Asked" During Lenten Soup Suppers



If you would like to purchase a book
please contact Renee
at 989-345-0210 or
office@westbranchfumc.org
Price of Book \$15.00



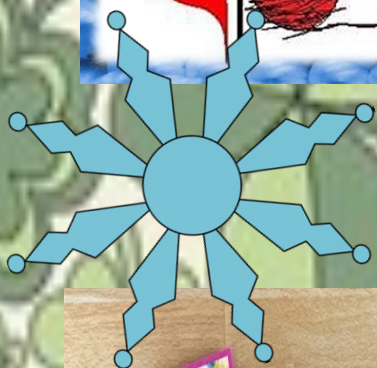
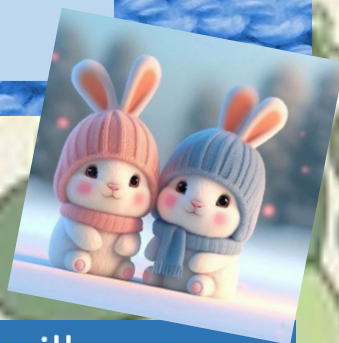
Prayer Shawl Ministry

We will join in Christian fellowship to knit or crochet prayer shawls to be gifted to help spread the message of God's mercy, love and compassion.

All skill levels welcome!



March 3rd & 17th
from 1-3 p.m.



Membership care team will be hosting a Creative Card making with Jane!

Wednesday, March 12th
&
Tuesday, March 18th
@ 1pm here at the church.

All supplies will be provided by Jane.



**United Methodist
Men's Breakfast**

**Sunday,
March 16th
7:30 a.m.**

**To Help Men Grow In
Christ,
So Others May Know
Christ.**



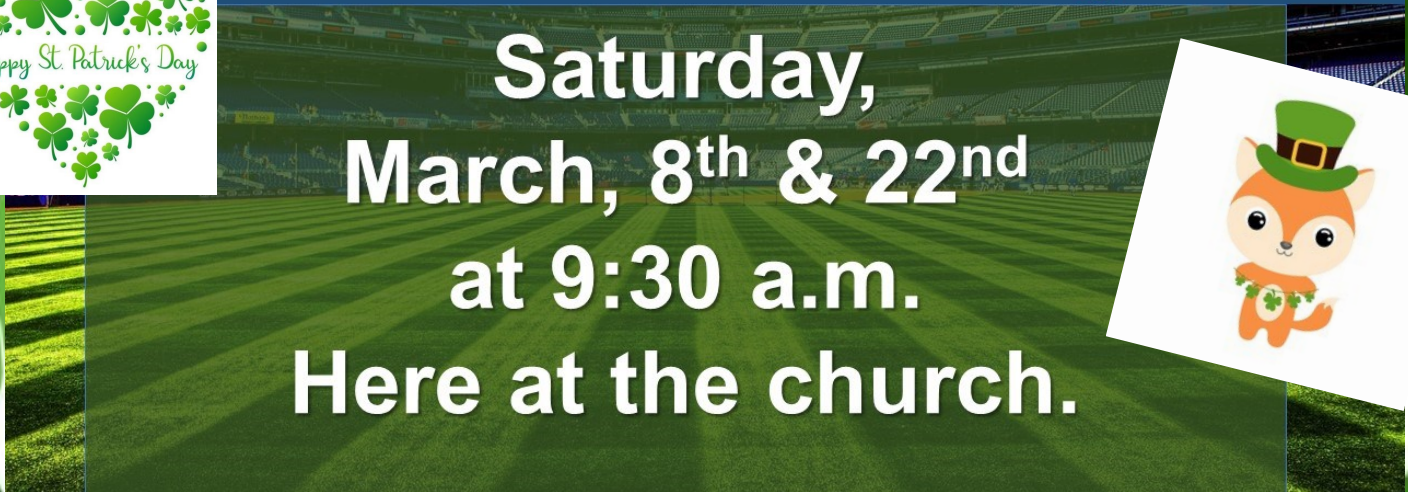
“Huddle Up!!!”

Men's Christian Study



**Saturday,
March, 8th & 22nd
at 9:30 a.m.**

Here at the church.



Grace & Games



Food, Fun and Fellowship



Sponsored by GAP Ministries

Lunch followed by a time of games and fellowship.

Wednesday, March 5th
after the Ash Wednesday Service

Come, bring your friends and join us!!!



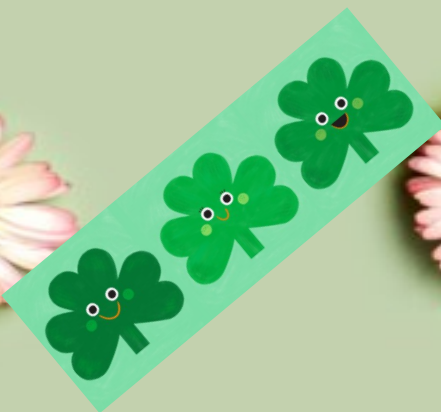
If you need a ride contact Arlene Martin,
Sue Smith, or Mary Chrysler

To all United Methodist Women
there will be a meeting on
Monday, March 17th at 1:00 PM
here at the church.



For more information, contact Diana Miller, 989-418-8562.

Cardio Drumming Class
Every Thursday @ 11:15am
in the fellowship hall.
Cost is \$5.00 per class
Hope to see you there!!!!





PRAYER CONCERNS

Please contact the office if you know of anyone that should be added to our Prayers. If you are listed below, and wish to be removed from our prayer concern list, call the Church Office: 989-345-0210 or

Email: office@westbranchfumc.org or drop a note. Thank you!

Prayer Concerns

Laura Prescott
Lanae Shields
Diane Pulaskey
Jeff Fagan
Ron Trombley

Military

Lt. William B. Mallory
Ricky Stachowski



Church

Trinity United Methodist
Church ~ Rose City

The Gilmore Family

FINANCIAL REPORT GENERAL FUND

January 2025

	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
REVENUE	\$ 14,869	\$14,869
EXPENDITURES	\$ 18,179	\$18,179
GAIN/(LOSS)	\$ (3,310)	\$(3,310)

FINANCIAL REPORT GAP MINISTRIES

January 2025

	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
REVENUE	\$ 53	\$53
EXPENDITURES	\$ 0	\$ 0
GAIN/(LOSS)	\$ 53	\$53



Sign-up to Serve for Coffee Fellowship
Don't think you need to do it alone because you don't! Ask a friend or two to help! Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Nursery Care is available every Sunday morning during worship.



Volunteers are ready to serve, but could always use more volunteers!

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Calendar Subject to change						1
2 Adult S.S. 8:30a Worship 10am Private Party 1p-6p	3 Prayer Shawl 1p Cub Scouts 6p BSA Troop 7p	4 Salvation Army 9a-noon BSA Cub Scouts 6p	5 Salvation Army 9a-noon Ash Wed Service 12p Grace & Games after Ash Wed Service Choir 4p	6 Salvation Army 9a-noon Cardio Drumming 11:15a Soup Supper/Bible Study 6p	7	8 Huddle 9:30a BSA Pine Wood Derby 12-6p
9 Adult S.S. 8:30a Worship 10am	10 Cub Scouts 6p BSA Troop 7p	11 Salvation Army 9a-noon Pack meeting 6p	12 Salvation Army 9a-noon Aktion noon Card Making 1p Choir 4p	13 Salvation Army 9a-noon Cardio Drumming 11:15a Soup Supper/Bible Study 6p	14 Free Food 9a	15
16 UMM Breakfast 7:30a Adult S.S. 8:30a Worship 10am	17 Prayer Shawl 1p UWIF(UMW) 1p Cub Scouts 6p BSA Troop 7p	18 Salvation Army 9a-noon Card Making 1p BSA Cub Scouts 6p	19 Salvation Army 9a-noon Ausable Valley 9-3 Choir 4p	20 Salvation Army 9a-noon Leadership 9:30a Cardio Drumming 11:15a Soup Supper/Bible Study 6p	21	22 Huddle 9:30a
23 Adult S.S. 8:30a Worship 10am	24 Cub Scouts 6p BSA Troop 7p	25 Salvation Army 9a-noon BSA Cub Scouts 6p	26 Salvation Army 9a-noon Choir 4p	27 Salvation Army 9a-noon Cardio Drumming 11:15a Soup Supper/Bible Study 6p	28	29 Private Party 12p-7p
30 Adult S.S. 8:30a Worship 10am	31 Cub Scouts 6p BSA Troop 7p					Calendar Subject to change

COMMUNITY FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY

First United Methodist Church
2490 West State Rd, West Branch
March 14th, 2025



This will be a drive thru event
1 box per car

DISTRIBUTION STARTS AT 9:00 A.M. Until gone
Questions, call Lisa at 989-345-0381

MARCH MUSIC NOTES

This month as we usher in the Lenten season, our Hymn of the Month, “Lamb of God” (The Faith We Sing #2113), talks about how God gave his Son, Jesus, to become the Lamb of God. Jesus was crucified by people who did not understand him, but his death was a sacrifice for all who believe and are brought to his side. The scriptural references cited include Psalm 23:4-5; Matthew 27:37-44; Mark 11:26-32 and Luke 23:35-38.

The composer and lyricist, Twila Paris, is an American contemporary Christian music singer, songwriter, and author, known for her impactful contributions to Christian worship music. Born in 1958, in Fort Worth, Texas, and raised in a deeply Christian family, she has been involved in music from an early age. Her career spans over four decades after releasing her first album in 1980.

Twila’s music blends contemporary Christian themes with traditional hymn-like melodies, and her legacy as a pioneer of contemporary worship music endures. She is known for her lyrics that focus on worship, adoration, and the Christian walk of faith.

In addition to her music, Twila Paris has authored several devotional books, won multiple awards, and has been inducted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame. She is married and has one son.

Twila Paris’s legacy is an intricate tapestry of faith, family, and music. Her story reminds us of the importance of encouragement, the power of heritage, and the genuine impact of raw honesty. As she continues to inspire and touch lives with her music, it is evident that her journey, like her songs, is both deep and enduring.

We, at FUMC, are blessed to be able to share the inspirational beauty of this song as we embark on our journey through Lent anticipating the return of joyful ‘Alleluias’ on Easter as we celebrate the risen Lamb of God!

Blessings,

Carol Lockhart, musician



Happy Anniversary

Bob & Melanie Nolan	3/16
Doug & Sue Hughey	3/17
Ron & Janet Bentley	3/19
Douglas & Linda Miller	3/19
Gary & Eileen Howell	3/22
Dennis & Debbie Provoast	3/23

Douglas Miller	3/4	Werner vonDaggenhausen	3/21
John Orr	3/4	Ellen Wiess	3/22
Joshua Kartes	3/5	Derek Orr	3/23
Barbara Hughey	3/6	Joe Clark	3/24
Raymond Miller	3/6	Annabelle Deyarmond	3/24
Mike Brooks	3/7	Faye Deyarmond	3/24
Carol Kerby	3/7	Brian Hughey	3/24
Jeanne Stopples	3/8	Percy Hodge	3/27
Colton Bragg	3/15	Brian Martin	3/28
Anita Brooks	3/16	Keith McBain	3/30
Bob Nolan	3/16		
Donald Lehman	3/17		
Kurt Lumley	3/18		
Ron Bentley	3/19		
Arlene Martin	3/19		
Eileen Howell	3/20		



First United Methodist Church

2490 West State Rd
West Branch, MI 48661

989-345-0210
office@westbranchfumc.org

Website: westbranchfumc.org

Office hours: Tuesday through Friday -- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch

On Site Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School during worship service

Staff:

Pastor: Michelle Forsyth
reverendmichelleforsyth@gmail.com

Office Manager: Renee Guoan
office@westbranchfumc.org

Organist: Carol Lockhart

Custodian: Mark Page

Mission Statement

*"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
who will know, love, and serve God."*