



From the Pastor's Desk...

A couple of weeks ago, United Women in Faith (formally known as the United Methodist Women) hosted a potluck. They invited Lydia's Gate Director, Kaitlin Kauffman, to share her testimony and vision for Lydia's Gate.

It was well-attended, with women from Churchill, Rose City, and Ogemaw Hills Free Methodist Church, as well as our beautiful women, in attendance. As usual, the food was fantastic, and the fellowship was such a blessing.

I sat next to one of Lydia's Gate's youngest guests. The circumstances that led this young woman to Lydia's Gate are heartbreaking. Yet, since she has been living there, she has hope. As the prophet Jeremiah says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11)."

I wasn't aware of this until recently, but because Lydia's Gate is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity for a social justice organization, the staff and volunteers can talk to the guests about the good news of Jesus Christ. Additionally, the board of directors consists of all practicing Christians. That is, they are actively living out their Christian faith through ethical actions and community involvement.

As I have mentioned before, being followers of Christ means more than attending Sunday worship. Discipleship encompasses spending time with God in prayer, reading the Bible, participating in small groups and Bible studies, and striving for justice and peace in the world.

One of the many things I admire about John Wesley was his strong and deep commitment

to 'social holiness.' He believed that holiness is love and that we manifest this love in the pursuit of the good of others. It can only exist in the context of relationships with other people. Specifically, interpersonal relationships between people. So, 'social holiness' is the manifestation of a spiritual state of integrity and complete love for God and others, fundamentally transforming our actions and character. It is a heart free from sin and filled with and directed by love, resulting in outward actions of grace that reflect inner sanctification.

I was delighted and filled with joy to hear that the women who attended the potluck graciously donated \$900.00 to Lydia's Gate. More importantly, some women showed interest in volunteering at Lydia's Gate. The financial gift and the invitation to volunteer, offering the guests at Lydia's Gate hope for the future, is, in my opinion, a testament to 'social holiness'.

For that, I am grateful to have the opportunity to journey with all of you as we discover new ways to grow in 'social holiness.' May God bless us in our discoveries, so that we may in turn bless others.

Michelle Forsyth



Harvest Dinner



Save the Date!!!!

Harvest Dinner

Saturday, October 4th, at 5:00 p.m.





To all United Methodist Women
there will be a meeting on
Monday, October 13th at 1:00 PM
Hope to see you there!



If you would like to donate to our 2025 Building Projects Fund

Here are 3 ways you can donate.

1. Place donation in collection plate marked "Building Projects"
2. Mail your donation to the church marked " Building Projects"
3. Drop your donation off at the church office.

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!**



**October 6th & 20th
from 1-3 p.m.**

Grace & Games



Food, Fun and Fellowship



Sponsored by GAP Ministries

Lunch followed by a time of games and fellowship.

Wednesday, Oct 8th @ 12:30pm

Come, bring your friends and join us!!!



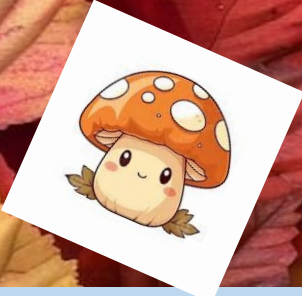
If you need a ride contact Arlene Martin,
Sue Smith, or Mary Chrysler



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

Wednesday,
October 15th
@ 1pm here at the church.

All supplies will be provided by Jane.



HEARING ASSISTANCE
RECEIVERS AVAILABLE
DURING CHURCH SERVICE.
IF YOU NEED A RECEIVER
SEE MARK.



Church Conference
Saturday, October 11th
10 a.m.
at Mio UMC
1101 8th Street
Mio, MI 48647





First United Methodist Church
Corner of Fairview and State Roads

2025 Rummage Sale



Wednesday, Oct 1st 9am-7pm

Thursday, Oct 2nd 9am-5pm

"BAG DAY" Friday, Oct 3rd 9am-1pm "BAG DAY"

1 paper grocery bag \$1

Or 3 paper grocery bags for \$2

Proceeds go to Missions!!!



United
Women
in Faith



All great events need volunteers for set up and clean up,
the rummage sale is no exception.



On Sunday September 28th after the church service
the set up will begin.

On Friday October 3rd at 1:00 PM the clean up will
begin, please assist if you can.



We will need a couple pick up trucks to transfer
the left over items to St. Vincent DePauls.



Contact Sherry Dean 345-3213 if you are able to help.
Thank You!



“Huddle Up!!!”

Men's Christian Study

**Saturday,
October 11th & 25th
at 9:30 a.m.
Here at the church.**



**United Methodist
Men's Breakfast**



**Sunday,
Oct 19th
7:30 a.m.**

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

UNITED METHODIST



COME JOIN US AT
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOR OUR ANNUAL

Halloween Grab -n- Go

Friday, October 31st
4:30 - 7:30 pm

Drive Thru Service

FREE Hot Dog, Chips & Drink

2490 West State Rd

Corner of State and Fairview



We will need volunteers to cook hot dogs in doors and to serve outside as the cars come through the parking lot.

Sign-up sheets will be available soon.

We are also looking for donations of money, napkins, and hot dog buns.
If you have and questions, call or see Sue Smith 989-345-1395

*Grab -N- Go has been an outreach ministry of our church for several years

A hotdog and a drink is served to everyone who comes through our parking lot.

COMMUNITY FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY

First United Methodist Church

2490 West State Rd, West Branch

Friday, October 17th, 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

SEW WITH US

COME SEW WITH US!

All levels of sewers are welcome to join us!

If you have any questions contact Sherri Jacobs.



Friday, October 24th

10 a.m.



Music Notes ~ October 2025

Each Sunday we join our voices in singing one of the most familiar doxologies in Christian worship as our offerings are dedicated to the Triune God.

*Praise God to whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

The term doxology comes from two Greek words, “doxa” meaning glory and “logia” meaning saying or speech. Therefore, doxology is a “saying (speech) of glory” that is often used at the end of psalms, prayers, and hymns.

The one we use at FUMC, often referred to as the Common Doxology, was composed by Thomas Ken (1637-1711), an Anglican bishop, in 1674 as the final verse for two of his hymns that were intended for both morning and evening worship. His words encapsulate the essence of praise and glorification of the Triune God.

The tune, known as “Old Hundredth,” is attributed to French composer, Louis Bourgeois in the 16th century. It was part of his 85 settings of Psalms included in the Genevan Psalter (1551). In the United Methodist Hymnal that tune is also used for #75 All People That on Earth Do Dwell and #621 Be Present at Our Table, Lord. Louis Bourgeois was a key figure in the history of church music, whose compositions and arrangements played a crucial role in shaping the musical landscape of the Reformed tradition. Now, 474 years later, this melody resounds in joyous praise each time it is sung!

Old 100th

Genevan Psalter 1551

88 88



**Blessings in Christ,
Carol Lockhart, musician**





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

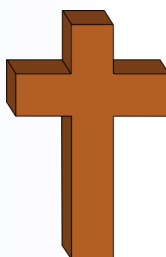
Laura Prescott
Lanae Shields
Diane Pulaskey
Jeff Fagan
Ron Trombley

Military

Lt. William B. Mallory

Church

Trinity United Methodist
Church ~ Rose City



The Gilmore Family
Serving in Honduras
ralphaleda@yahoo.com

FINANCIAL REPORT GENERAL FUND

August 2025

	<u>MONTH</u>	Year to Date
REVENUE	\$ 19,135	\$140,391
EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 22,101</u>	<u>\$137,458</u>
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>\$ (2,966)</u>	<u>\$ 2,933</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT GAP MINISTRIES

August 2025

	<u>MONTH</u>	Year to Date
REVENUE	\$ 1,318	\$14,667
EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 6,974</u>	<u>\$ 15,981</u>
GAIN/(LOSS)	<u>\$ (5,656)</u>	<u>\$ (1,314)</u>



**Sign-up to Serve
for
Coffee Fellowship**



**Fellowship
After
Worship**

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!



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Calendar Subject to change			1 Salvation Army 9a-noon Rummage Sale 9a-7p New Member Class 4:30p Choir 4p Community Choir 6p	2 Salvation Army 9a-noon Rummage Sale 9a-5p	3 Rummage Sale 9a-1p	4 Harvest Dinner 5p
5 Adult S.S. 8:30a Worship 10am	6 GAP 9:30a Prayer Shawl 1p Cub Scouts 6p BSA Troop 7p	7 Salvation Army 9a-noon Cub Scouts 6p	8 Salvation Army 9a-noon Aktion Club noon Grace N Games 12:30 Choir 4p New Member Class 4:30p BSA Committee 7p	9 Salvation Army 9a-noon SPRC ZOOM 6p	10	11 Church Conference Mio UMC 10a Huddle 9:30a
12 Adult S.S. 8:30a Worship 10am	13 UMW 1p Cub Scouts 6p	14 Salvation Army 9a-noon Pack Meeting 6p	15 Salvation Army 9a-noon Card Making 1p Choir 4p New Member Class 4:30p Community Choir 6p	16 Salvation Army 9a-noon Emmaus Women 2p	17 Free Food 9a	18
19 UMM Breakfast 7:30a Adult S.S. 8:30a Worship 10am	20 Prayer Shawl 1p Cub Scouts 6p BSA Troop 7p	21 Salvation Army 9a-noon BSA Cub Scouts 6p	22 Salvation Army 9a-noon Choir 4p	23 Salvation Army 9a-noon	24 Sew with Us 10a	25 Huddle 9:30a
26 Adult S.S. 8:30a Worship 10am	27 Cub Scouts 6p BSA Troop 7p	28 Salvation Army 9a-noon BSA Cub Scouts 6p	29 Salvation Army 9a-noon Choir 4p Community Choir 6p	30 Salvation Army 9a-noon	31 Grab-n-Go 4:30p - 7:30	
						Calendar Subject to change



John & Beth Orr	10/9
Bob & Michelle Forsyth	10/12
Rocky & Ann Skidmore	10/15
Sue & Rowan Smith	10/17
Gary & Connie Roettger	10/21



Linda Miller	10/1
Jacob Burger	10/2
Raymond Brunzell	10/3
Kris Schubert	10/3
John Carroll	10/4
Bev Scott	10/8
Ken Weisend	10/8
Ember Burger	10/9
Duane Miller	10/11
Dennis Provoast	10/13
Jerimiha Hodge	10/16
Kyler Weisend	10/16
Allen Cascadden	10/18
Carol Shaw	10/29
Bradley Burger	10/30
Sherry Cascadden	10/30

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."