

United Methodist
Church of the Dunes

717 Sheldon Road
Grand Haven, MI 49417

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Christian Summer Camps

There are a wonderful variety of United Methodist summer camps offered again this year. We usually have around twenty children and youth attending. "Camperships" of 50% of the cost of camp are available through our church. Check out the offerings of camps and themes at the West Michigan Conference website (<westmichiganconference.org>) and follow the "camping" link. Senior High youth are encouraged to check out Lake Louise Camp, or the Beaver Island kayak camp that Pastor Dan will be leading.

Return Service Requested

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717 Sheldon Road
Grand Haven, MI 49417
PH (616) 842-7980
www.umcdunes.org
Liz McCoy, Editor of the Dunes Digest

Our Mission

Our mission is to be a church with outstretched arms, demonstrating the caring of Christ to each other, our community and the world by encouraging growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, challenging and equipping all to be faithful disciples for the transformation of the world.



Don't Forget...

Come and worship at
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Calendar Highlights

March 7: Silent Witnesses—"The Nail"
John 20.25
Communion—by intinction

March 14: Silent Witnesses—"The Spear"
John 19.31-37
(beginning of Daylight Savings time)

March 21: Silent Witnesses—"The Shroud"
Mark 15.42-46a

March 28: Palm Sunday

April 1: Maundy Thursday
Communion service at 7 p.m.

April 2: Good Friday
Tenebrae (service of shadows) at 8 p.m.

The Celebration of Easter:
7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service: "The Stone"
7:30 a.m. - Breakfast
Services at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Church Staff

Rev. Daniel Duncan, Pastor
email: dand@umcdunes.org

Judy Meschke, Secretary
email: judy.umcdunes@gmail.com

Terry Winesett, Asst. Secretary/Webmaster
email: duneswebmaster@gmail.com

Peter Robertson, Custodian

Jean Schuitman,
Director of Music and Organist
email: morbaroque@aol.com

Karyn Gillan,
Director of Volunteer Ministries
email: karynumcdunes@gmail.com

Marna Jeffery, Accompanist

Carol Kirchner, Director of Jubilation Choir

Melody Smith, Director of Youth Choir

Sondra Metzler, Kitchen Coordinator

Cathy Tousley & Pam Suchecki
Wednesday Night Suppers

High School Youth Ministry
Corey Walling, Val Martin, Bill DeBone &
Craig Weisenauer

Middle School Youth Ministry
Paul Martin, Blair Miller & Craig Weisenauer

Dunes Digest



Witnessing

Now there's a scary word! Witnessing. I imagine that one image that comes to mind with this word involves a pushy person peddling pedantic pap (I couldn't resist that one...). Witnessing is a curious word. Typically, we use the word to describe what we have seen or experienced directly in some way; therefore a witness to a crime will be asked to state during a trial what he or she saw. They will "testify" to what they witnessed. During this season of Lent, we have been hearing in our worship life the imaginative testimonies of what various elements used in Jesus' crucifixion might have thought; they are the "silent witnesses." If you have witnessed any of these, you know that they are not silent!

How is it that we testify, or "witness" to, our faith? I'm realistic enough to recognize that this is not a question that keeps many of us awake at night, but it is a part of serving Christ to understand that his followers become part of his story in the world. Whether we accept that role or not, to those who see us in the community it is simply assumed that what we do reflects our faith and our values. Whether we say anything about our commitment to Christ, and his values is just one way that we witness to that commitment; the other way is in our behavior.

I heard in an address at Calvin College last month about a researcher from Louisville Seminary who studied the stories of Christians in Nazi Germany who made a difference. Most Christians in that

era did not do so, simply capitulating to the culture, but some resisted. The difference was that those who did take a stand and made a difference had been taking small steps in that direction. I guess it is just like Jesus said: "take the small step that you can" ("have the faith of a mustard seed"—Matthew 17.20), and eventually you will reach the goal. May the steps we take both reflect the true path of Christ, and lead others to it.

Pastor Dan



Winterfest 2010
Pastor Dan and Bruce Buckley

Deaths

Our condolences to the families of:

Connie Curtis. A Service of Death and Resurrection was held for Connie Curtis (at the church of the Dunes) on Thursday, January 28th. Connie lost her battle to cancer on Saturday, January 23, 2010.

Winona Rankin, wife of Bob Rankin, died on Saturday, February 6th. Her funeral was on Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

Naomi "Noni" Lampson, wife of Lyle Lampson, died on February 19th. Her service was on February 21, 2010, at the church.

THE STATISTICS OF JESUS

By Gwen Bartels, for the Worship Commission

All through the Old Testament we find prophecies about various coming events some of which happened during the course of the prophets' lifetimes, some later in history, and some to which we look forward in the future. The prophecies about the Messiah are so very interesting; actually, a better word would be mind-boggling! The other day, I heard an interesting statistic by an astronomer/mathematician regarding the prophecies about Jesus. The likelihood of Jesus fulfilling even 8 prophecies about Himself were 1 in 10 to the 17th power! That would be a 1 with 17 zeroes after it! To put it into another perspective, it would be to cover the entire state of Texas with silver dollars 2 feet deep (this would be 10 to the 17th power silver dollars). If you marked just one of those silver dollars with a special mark, thoroughly stirred them all up, and then blindfolded a man telling him he could travel all over the State, and if he picked up the marked silver dollar on the first try, that would equate to one person, Jesus, fulfilling only 8 prophecies. Think about the number of prophecies Jesus fulfilled during the course of his last month on earth – that number would be upwards of 20 prophecies! During March, we are in the period of the Christian calendar called "Lent" and each week of Lent we will be studying a different piece of the Crucifixion story. This Lenten season, our congregation will gain new insights into the events surrounding this story through the eyes of some unusual participants, many who were prophesied centuries before Jesus was born. You will not want to miss one single sermon of the "Silent Witnesses" brought to you each Sunday through Resurrection Day Sunrise Service, April 4, at 7:00 a.m. You will also want to mark your calendar for Maundy Thursday (April 1) at 7:00 p.m. when we're planning an evening service with Holy Communion and don't miss Good Friday (April 2) as we are holding a Tenebrae service at 8:00 p.m. Come hear the fulfillment of the prophecies, recorded so that we can never doubt the divine redemption story!



Dick Tanis/Volunteer for United Methodist Men - December 2009

"I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me" Philippians 4:13

"God provides for what He guides" Conceive-Believe-Achieve

This will be the theme of the Women's Retreat, sponsored by the United Methodist Women on March 12 and 13, 2010.

This special program will begin on Friday night, March 12th at 6:00 p.m. with a time of fellowship, followed by dinner at 6:45, worship, and a breakout session. These events will finish at around 9:30 p.m. Activities will be planned for the remainder of the evening for those staying overnight. Saturday morning will begin with breakfast at 8:30 a.m., followed by worship and discussion and another breakout session. We will end with lunch at 11:30 a.m.

All women of the church are invited to attend. Those who do not wish to stay overnight can just participate in the meals, sessions and other activities. The meals will be catered so everyone will be able to attend the events. The presenter for the retreat will be Heather Fitch Miller. Heather is a candidate for ministry in the UMC, however, lately she has been pursuing her passion with youth in her current position of Children and Youth Ministry at Court Street UMC in Flint, MI. Prior to this position, Heather spent 9 months as a licensed Local Pastor at Dimond UMC in Flint. Heather has a deep love for the Lord and strives to live her life in obedience to His direction. Please prayerfully consider joining together with your sisters in Christ to learn more about what our amazing God has in store for us.

Marriage Communications Seminar Coming

Studies show that communicating clearly and directly is one of the most important factors in building a strong, healthy, and happy marriage, and also one of the most difficult skills to really master. Our church annually offers a seminar called the "Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program" (PREP), and is led by Marianne Joint, who has a Masters degree in Counseling Psychology, and who has been trained in this approach. This is a research-based approach that will teach you how to communicate effectively, work as a team to solve problems, manage conflicts without damaging closeness, and preserve and enhance love, commitment and friendship. The PREP approach is based on over twenty years of research in the field of marital health and success, with much of the specific research conducted at the University of Denver. We have scheduled this event for Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and we meet in the Ryder Lounge, on the main floor next to the sanctuary (lunch will be provided by the church). The cost for the seminar is \$75, which we ask that you send in by April 1. Contact Pastor Dan to sign up, and with any questions (dand@umcdunes.org).

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS FOR RESURRECTION DAY!

If you would like to be a part of our beautiful Resurrection Day Garden, watch the bulletin for the "Flower Insert" and place your order before Friday, March 21st. What a fitting tribute to the memory or honor of someone/ something in your life!