

Dunes Digest



In Worship this August - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Communion Sunday

Name Tag Sunday

Hunger Offering: Supper House (provides hot meals and fellowship for many in need)

Preaching: Rev. Lou Grettenberger

Pastor Lou returns to worship. We hope his time of spiritual renewal leave was restful and refreshing. During August, we will hear more from Pastor Lou about the bread of life, discernment, and wisdom.

Special Music: Baritone Vocal Duet

Talented vocalists Al Kochanowski and Judah Weeks team up to share their musical gifts in worship.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Preaching: Rev. Lou Grettenberger

Special Music: Treble Ensemble

A group of sopranos and altos from the Chancel Choir inspires with beautiful harmonies.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Preaching: Rev. Lou Grettenberger

Special Music: Plans are in the works. Please watch for details.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Mission Moment: Fresh Coast Alliance (provides substance abuse treatment)

Preaching: Rev. Lou Grettenberger

Special Music: Dunes Bass Clef Ensemble

A group of basses and tenors from the Chancel Choir blend low tones to provide memorable music.

Remembrance**Betty Johnston**

died on July 5, 2024. Per her wishes, there was not a service.

Darlene Glockzin

died on July 16, 2024. A service was held at Church of the Dunes on July 22.

Please keep their loved ones in your prayers.

Celebrating Baptism**Aurora Olivia Grace****Mundwiler**

was baptized at Church of the Dunes on July 21, 2024. We celebrate with parents Jessica & Kevin Mundwiler.

Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

All are welcome!

Livestream and recordings of services are available on the church's YouTube channel.

To find it, search *Dunes Church Grand Haven YouTube*.

Church office hours:

Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Phone:

(616) 842-7980

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United Methodist Church of the Dunes

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Dates to Note**ENGAGE Fall Start-up Event**

Sunday, September 8, after worship

After worship, come to the Wiltse Center fellowship area to find out more about the many ministry areas and activities at Church of the Dunes. Even if you are a long-time member, there is always something new to discover. Maybe you'll even sign up to try a new activity at church this fall.

Pig Roast and Potluck

Sunday, September 22, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

If possible, please bring a side dish to share. Sign-up information will be available as the date gets closer. Please watch for details. Hosted by The Dunesmen (United Methodist Men's group).

**Just for grins**

What is a mathematician's favorite book of the Bible?
Numbers.

Why didn't they play cards on Noah's ark?
Because somebody was always standing on the deck.

What do you call an illegally parked frog?
Toad.

What did the ocean say to the sailor?
Nothing. It just waved.

GIFTS OF SUPPORT

Missionary Gifts Help Patients in Nepal

Church of the Dunes Missions and Social Concerns Commission

Church of the Dunes provides budgeted support to missionaries Dr. Les and Debbie Dornon in their work at Tansen Hospital in Nepal. The hospital serves the needs of hundreds of thousands of Nepali citizens. There are a few other hospitals in the area, but this hospital offers especially high-quality care and the option of free care if the patient is needy. Because of challenges facing the country, economic conditions can be difficult for many. People have delayed coming to the hospital due to lack of funds or transport, and arrive sicker and more in need than they would have been previously. Tansen Hospital fills an enormous need (*source: umcmmission.org*).

The Dornons shared an update on their lives in recent months. At their writing, monsoon season had arrived in Nepal, and lands that were parched just a few months prior had turned lush and almost jungle-like. Misty mornings brought steamy days. As a result of this rainy season, there were cases of mushroom poisoning coming to the hospital, along with patients needing treatment for snake bites.

One story particularly demonstrated the importance of missional gifts to the hospital. Details have been modified to assure privacy. Recently, a pre-teen arrived at the hospital with an open fracture to a limb. Hungry and without access to much food, the child climbed a tree to pick fruit and fell. The bleeding was extensive, and surgery, followed by a three-week hospital stay, was needed to heal the fracture. Because of many losses in this child's life, there was no immediate family to provide care. Remaining relatives were unwilling, and the child begged in the streets for days until a kind-hearted person opened their doors. The update noted that the child's inner pain was even greater than pain from the physical injury, and the pastoral care staff at the hospital spent many hours providing comfort, prayer, and a listening ear. The child's life will not be easy, but the experience of receiving care, love, and comfort will be a long-term blessing. Thanks to mission support to Tansen Hospital's Medical Assistance Fund from churches, the child was able to receive medical care for free.

For more information on what Church of the Dunes is doing to support this and other missions, check out the Mission Giving report in this newsletter. You are also welcome to speak to any member of the Missions and Social Concerns Commission. Contact the church office for assistance connecting with that team.

*We can't heal the world today, but we can begin with a voice of compassion,
a heart of love, an act of kindness.*

~ Mary Davis ~

REFLECTING AND CELEBRATING

Finishing Well Ministry Looks Back and Ahead

Susan Thorpe, Coordinator, Church of the Dunes Finishing Well Ministry

I cannot look ahead until I have looked behind. This has been an amazing year so far and I am grateful to so many for supporting the Finishing Well Ministry. Beginning with the Tulip Bulb sale in February that provided the seed money to secure our featured entertainer for the Red Skelton Tribute performance on July 31. Ticket sales have been strong! As of this writing, Finishing Well's fundraising efforts and ticket sales have accomplished an unbelievable goal in bringing Brian "Red Skelton" Hoffman to Grand Haven and Church of the Dunes. I know in my heart that Church of the Dunes will be in the hearts and minds of so many more people as a result. There are so many people to thank for their cash donations of over \$1000, in-kind donation from Sweet Temptations (ice cream), Russ' Restaurant Benefit Week raising \$419.71, church staff (oh my, have they outdone themselves!) and Central Park Players staff were invaluable. Volunteers of every stripe along with those that purchased tickets to the performance, we thank you. Obstacles did occur, but each time we met an obstacle, the Lord opened a door for us. Praise God, for God is an awesome God!



Now to look ahead! Many of you purchased tickets for the August 11 Whitecaps baseball game meet-up at LMCU Stadium in Grand Rapids, and I know this will be a fun afternoon. Go Whitecaps!

The Finishing Well leadership team is working on another CPR/AED class to be scheduled in the future, along with a "Nutritious Meals for One or Two" workshop in September. We are blessed to have such talent in the Finishing Well ministry leadership team, and we are always listening to you for new ideas, so don't be shy. Talk to us.

CREATING

Craft Circle Update and Plans

Ann Antaya, Church of the Dunes Craft Circle

Craft Circle co-chair Annette Allen writes, "We had a great work bee [in July] and I would like to thank everyone who came to help. It was a fun and productive day. When we talked about the August meeting; it sounded like we were going to be missing several regulars. Not a surprise being so close after Coast Guard week. Given that, we are going to skip the August meeting. We look forward to our September meeting where our presenter will be Chris Hornby from the Green Dragonfly Studio. She is a multi-talented fiber artist who will give a presentation on rug hooking."



The next Craft Circle meeting is Thursday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ryder Lounge (main floor near sanctuary). Crafters or not, all are welcome to attend. Craft Circle meetings include a presentation or craft project, refreshments, and lots of laughter and fun.

Grow in Faith

Discussion Groups for Adults

Faith Linked Weekly Discussion Group

Sundays 10:45 a.m.

Bron and Barry Kram, facilitators, Ryder Lounge (main floor)

Drop in as your schedule permits, or attend weekly to discuss current events and topics from a faith-focused perspective. A new topic is discussed each time.

Faith
Linked

Fourth Monday Reading Group

“The Book of Lost Names”

by Kristin Harmel

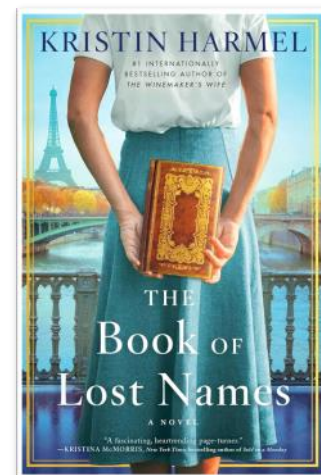
Monday, August 26, 1:30 p.m., at Panera Bread, Grand Haven

Gayle Cox, facilitator

To participate, get a copy of the book, read it, and join in the discussion.

“Inspired by an astonishing true story from World War II, a young woman with a talent for forgery helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis in this unforgettable historical novel.

As a graduate student in 1942, Eva was forced to flee Paris after the arrest of her father, a Polish Jew. Finding refuge in a small mountain town in the Free Zone, she begins forging identity documents for Jewish children fleeing to neutral Switzerland. But erasing people comes with a price, and along with a mysterious, handsome forger named Rémy, Eva decides she must find a way to preserve the real names of the children who are too young to remember who they really are. The records they keep in *The Book of Lost Names* will become even more vital when the resistance cell they work for is betrayed...”



Book images and summary: Amazon.com

In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.

~ Mortimer J. Adler ~

BLESSING WITH BLESSINGS

Mission Giving Report: Second Quarter 2024

Church of the Dunes provides financial support for missions purposes throughout the year. Some of these allocations are included in the annual budget. In addition, special offerings are planned and gathered for pre-designated organizations, then gifted to those organizations. This report summarizes mission giving for the first half of 2024.

		1st Q	2nd Q	Total
Age Well Services	Contributions	-	100	100
Cass Community Social Services	Mission Moment	-	1,794	1,794
Family Promise	Budgeted Contribution	-	500	500
Family Promise	Contributions	-	600	600
Family Promise	Family Meals	-	732	732
Gracious Grounds	Contributions	100	200	300
Gracious Grounds	Mission Moment	-	410	410
Gun Violence Prevention	Contributions	-	2,165	2,165
Habitat for Humanity	Contributions	-	200	200
Habitat for Humanity	Mission Moment	919	-	919
Humanity for Prisoners	Contributions	-	100	100
Knitters Group	Contributions	-	30	30
Love in Action	Contributions	-	200	200
Love in Action	Hunger Offering	1,518	1,162	2,680
Love in Action	Mission Moment	1,384	-	1,384
Michigan Conference	Missionary Support-Dornan	800	-	800
Michigan Conference	UMCOR Contribution	300	1,100	1,400
Michigan Conference	UMCOR Israel/Gaza (Lenten Offering)	2,447	707	3,153
Michigan Conference	UMCOR Ukraine (Lenten Offering)	1,223	353	1,577
Michigan Conference	UMCOR Blanket Sunday	-	45	45
Momentum Center	Contributions	-	320	320
Mosaic Counseling	Mission Moment	410	72	482
Pride Festival	Contributions	-	225	225
Pride Festival	Budgeted Contribution	-	275	275
Supper House	Budgeted Contribution	500	-	500
Supper House	Hunger Offering	-	1,891	1,891
Supper House	Contributions	-	300	300
Teen Challenge	Mission Moment	100	-	100
The People Center	Hunger Offering	938	-	938
The People Center	Budgeted Contribution	500	-	500
The Salvation Army	Hunger Offering	984	1,273	2,257
The Salvation Army	Mission Moment	-	803	803
United Women of Faith	Contributions	100	2,300	2,400
Total		12,223	17,857	30,080