

# Dunes Digest



## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Thank You

*Rev. Lou Grettenberger, Pastor*

Dear Church of the Dunes Friends,

Thank you! Thank you for affording me the opportunity to spend time away for a much-needed respite. Also, thanks to the preachers, staff members, and pastoral care substitutes that made everything run smoothly at the Dunes in my absence. Please know that I am grateful!

Many have asked if I had a good time, what I did, and did I learn anything. To be honest, I didn't go on a cruise around the world, take a flight to Nepal to seek a great teacher, or traverse the Atlantic to pray at the Wailing Wall. I went to our lakeside cottage where I pounded nails, fixed things, dug weeds, planted perennials, watered the gardens, and roasted lake trout, chicken quarters, and squished burgers over an open fire.

It was in these somewhat mindless activities that I found myself mindful of the rhythms of my body and spirit. I learned in the words of Carrie Newcomer that "a shovel is a prayer," that dirty knees can become badges of a good day's work, and that my emerging freckles are reminders of my childhood, when I used to spend enough time outside to soak in the sun. My body felt stronger as I used it more, and the strengthening of my body made me feel better from the outside in.

The trip from which I have just returned wasn't a tour of the world, but a tour of my own body and spirit. I return, not leaving those things in the rearview mirror, but more mindful of the ways I sometimes forget to be grateful for simple things: a heart that beats with the love of the Lord, for a body that is a result of the God-given miracle that is modern medicine--the man-made hips that lifted me up from the garden, the artificial knee that allowed me to kneel, and the medicines and surgeries that have kept my heart beating at all.

So, what do we do with all we have been given? As I enter fall, I am less concerned about what I am doing and more concerned with finding God in whatever activity I participate. I pray that you might join me in that endeavor. It may not matter that we come up with the perfect strategic plan for ministry, the perfect event, the most amazing Bible study material. What matters is that we gratefully embrace the opportunities God opens to us, look for God in every activity we initiate together, and trust that an ever-loving God can be revealed to and through us no matter how imperfect we are.

*Continued on the next page*

## Remembrance

### Joseph Rebar

died on August 5, 2024.

A celebration of his life will be held at Church of the Dunes on October 26 at 2:00 p.m.

### Mary Larned

died on August 7, 2024.

Her immediate family will celebrate and remember her life together.

Please keep Joseph's and Mary's loved ones in your prayers.

## 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

**Email:** [office@umcdunes.org](mailto:office@umcdunes.org)

## United Methodist Church of the Dunes

717 Sheldon Road  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
[www.umcdunes.org](http://www.umcdunes.org)

*Image and illustration credits for this issue: Pixabay.com*

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Church of the Dunes is a beautiful community of faith, knit together in common purpose to reach out without judgment, spread the love and joy of Jesus, and heal wounded hearts. God has, is, and will continue to bless those within our ministry, if we continue to be committed to blessing others. Welcome to the wonder of fall and God's grace.

God loves you and so do I!

*Pastor Lou*



## 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 ministries 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 find a new activity to participate in this fall.



## Pig Roast and Potluck

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

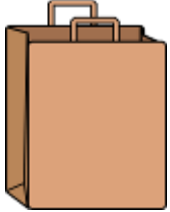
You are invited to bring a side dish to share and your own plate and silverware. Please sign up on the Sunday bulletin sign-in sheet or contact the church office.

*Hosted by The Dunesmen (United Methodist Men's group)*

## FEEDING THE HUNGRY

### Brown Bag Non-perishable Food Gathering for The People Center September 8

It's time for another Brown Bag food gathering. This time, the food will go to the pantry at The People Center in Spring Lake. In times of emergency or uncertainty, The People Center responds with food, clothing, transitional housing, and access to area resources. There is a food pantry, a clothing hutch that offers free clothes to those in need, and more.



On September 1, brown paper grocery bags, with a list of most needed items attached, will be available after worship. To participate, take a bag(s), add your choice of items from the list, and bring back to church on September 8. Or, you can use the list provided below and bring the items in the bags provided when you shop.

Needed items include: mac and cheese, syrup, pancake mix, boxed potatoes, ramen noodles, cereal, hamburger helper, canned fruit, laundry soap, bar soap, toothbrushes, dish soap

## Dunes Concert Series

Church of the Dunes is pleased to announce the Dunes Concert Series for the 2024-25 season. This series will bring a variety of artists and musical styles to Church of the Dunes. The concerts are made possible by a generous gift expressly for musical performance.

### CANDID ANTICS

#### Candid Antics, Jazz Fusion

*(the band formerly known as Pocket Watch)*

**Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

This an up-and-coming, Grand Rapids-based, 6-piece jazz-fusion band mixing old school funk with a new age jazz sensibility. The group is comprised of local musicians who have experience with national tours and many high-profile West Michigan performances. They have recently recorded a full-length debut album of original music with plans to tour soon.

#### Ruby John, Fiddler

**Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

In honor of Indigenous Peoples Month, the series hosts Native American fiddler Ruby John, performing with John Warstler on guitar. Ruby is a gifted and versatile fiddler. She's known for playing a Métis-style of fiddle as well as Celtic, and standard country-and-mountain-style as well as sharing stories and information on her musical style as well as her culture.

*These concerts are offered freely to the community.*

## SCHEDULE UPDATE

### In October - Caregivers Support Group Schedule Change

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



The Caregivers Support Group is open to all who are caring for a loved one with a long-term illness or diagnosis. Meetings are held monthly and offer an opportunity to share ideas and tips, lend support and be supported, and share time with others experiencing the caregiving journey.

Beginning in **October**, the Caregivers Support group will move to the third Monday of the month (October 21) at 1:00 p.m. in the Ryder Lounge at church. The September meeting will take place on the current schedule, the last Monday of the month (September 30) at 1:00 p.m.

## CREATING AND COMMUNITY

### Craft Circle Special Presentation

*Ann Antaya, Church of the Dunes Craft Circle*



After an August break, Craft Circle returns in September! This month, Chris Hornby from Green Dragonfly Studio in Grand Haven will give a presentation on rug hooking. Her shop sells rug hooking supplies, hand-dyed wool and yarn, and her design services.

Anyone may come to Craft Circle meetings. There are no membership lists, no meeting minutes, no dues, no commitment to attend every month. Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, last about an hour, and usually include a speaker or a craft project, coffee, and snack.

Please join us Thursday, September 12 at 10 a.m. in the Ryder Lounge (on the main floor of the church building, near the sanctuary).

## STARTING UP

### Notes for Fall Meetings and Activities

*Church of the Dunes Office Staff*

It seems as though Church of the Dunes has more activities, meetings, and events each year. It is exciting to be part of an active and busy church! As your groups and committees start out the new program year, please remember to reserve meeting space with the church office. This avoids accidental “double bookings” and assures that air conditioning or heating will be on during your scheduled time. The Zoom carts are ready to use, so if you will be holding a meeting or activity that you’d like folks to be able to access remotely on Zoom, contact the church office. Staff can provide information and assistance to help make that happen. Thanks!

# Grow in Faith

## September Studies and 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. Each session features a different topic.



### Not Alone: 11 Courageous Widows from the Bible

Begins Tuesday, September 3, 10:00 a.m., meets four weeks

Room 2, lower level

*Mary Anne Miller and Carol Leinonen, facilitators*

This study is especially designed for women who have struggled with any form of loss or struggle on their own. With the book "Not Alone: 11 Inspiring Stories of Courageous Widows from the Bible" by Miriam Neff, we will discuss women who persevered and rose up in hope and faith. Sign up on the Adult Ministries bulletin board, located in the hallway near the church office. The book is \$11.



### The Struggle is Real

Begins Monday, September 9, 1:00 p.m., meets 6 weeks

Room 13/14, lower level, sessions 2-6 meet in Room 2, lower level

*Ruth Woodward, facilitator*

This study is based on the book "The Struggle is Real" by Nicole Unice. We live in a world that often feels harder than we think it should be. Join us as we discover ways to navigate the ups and downs and explore ways to re-write our struggles into a new God-centered story. Sign up on the Adult Ministries bulletin board, located in the hallway near the church office. The book is \$13.



### Fourth Monday Reading Group

**"Black Cake: A Novel"** by Charmaine Wilkerson

*Monday, September 23, 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.

*"In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer..."*



Book images and summaries: Amazon.com

### "Good News that Changes Everything" by Melissa Spoelstra

Please watch for more information about this six-week Tuesday morning Bible study on Romans.

It begins October 1, with Cathy Shick, facilitator



## WOMEN IN MISSION

### UWF Gives with Gusto and Declares this Fall for Fowl

Ruth Woodward, Church of the Dunes United Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

United Women in Faith have been busy.....giving away money!

Many of you will remember our dear friend, Ruthie VanderSys. Ruthie had a saying: "Money is like manure. It needs to be spread around to do any good!" Well, we have been spreading. At Church of the Dunes' United Women in Faith recent board meeting, we allocated \$1,500 to CURE International. CURE International, based in Grand Rapids, MI, is a Christian nonprofit organization that owns and operates eight charitable children's hospitals around the world. CURE provides medical care to pediatric patients with orthopedic and neurological conditions, and needs for reconstructive plastic surgery,

This board also decided to send the following amounts to Heifer International:

\$500 for 4 heifers

\$120 for 2 goats

\$120 for 2 pigs

\$120 for 2 sheep

Additionally, we are sending Heifer International \$1,000 for the purchase of chickens. That money will provide 48 flocks of chickens which will help provide eggs and a growing business for a number of families in need around the world.

But wait! There's more! While we are spreading that money around the world, we realize that there are families right here in the Tri-Cities area that do not have enough protein in their diets. What a tremendous help our congregation was last spring, raising enough money for a whole cow to be purchased, butchered, and shared with local food pantries.

So.....fall is for fowl. Church of the Dunes United Women in Faith is challenging the congregation to match our \$1,000 donation. The \$1,000 raised by you will be used to purchase chicken - breasts, thighs, drumsticks. As much as we can get....and again, we will share it with local pantries to help those in need. Your donations can be put in one of the pew envelopes, marked CHICKENS or dropped at the church office. All checks should be made out to Church of the Dunes. Please note "chickens" on the memo line.

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*Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble.*

*Then your light will shine out of the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.*

*Isaiah 58:10 (NLT)*



## Worship Arts Ministry: Notes from the Loft

by Megan Horist, Director of Worship Arts

### SEPTEMBER 2024

I can't believe autumn is almost here! We are so excited to welcome you to the new ministry year! If you are interested in getting involved in worship, there are many ways to serve on Sunday mornings! **ENGAGE Sunday** is September 8. This is a great time to find out what is happening at church and to get involved with ministry and all the programs happening at the Dunes!

### ARTS OPPORTUNITIES

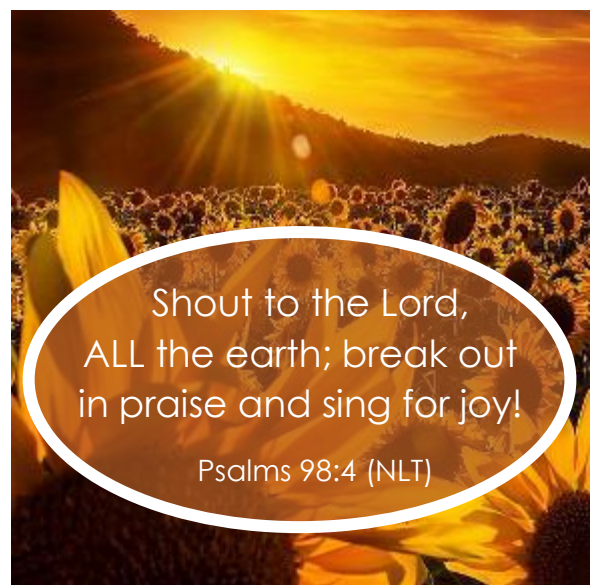
- **Chancel Choir** is open to all singers High School through adult. We rehearse on **Wednesdays from 7-8pm** beginning on September 4.
- **Bells of Glory** begins on September 9 and rehearses on **Tuesdays from 7-8pm**.
- **Celebration Choir** is our 5th Sunday choir. We rehearse 2 times (Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15pm) before the 5th Sunday and then sing! Join us!
- **worshipBand** is a new arts opportunity. We need singers and instrumentalists to help lead modern music in our worship services. Interested? Please contact Megan to schedule an audition.
- **Guitar Club** is a group that meets for guitar instruction on Wednesdays from 6:00—6:45pm. All stringed instruments are welcome! No experience is needed.
- **Liturgists** are the people that read liturgy and scripture and help to lead worship on Sunday morning. If public reading is your gift, please talk to me about serving in our liturgist rotation.

Hope to see you in church soon!

~Megan

### COMING UP IN WORSHIP

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| SEPT 1  | <b>Communion Sunday</b><br>Special Music TBD                                  |
| SEPT 8  | <b>ENGAGE SUNDAY</b><br><b>CHANCEL CHOIR</b><br>in worship                    |
| SEPT 15 | <b>CHANCEL CHOIR</b><br>in worship  |
| SEPT 22 | <b>BELLS OF GLORY</b><br>in worship<br><b>Mission Moment:</b><br><b>UMCOR</b> |
| SEPT 29 | <b>CELEBRATION CHOIR</b><br>in worship  |



Shout to the Lord,  
ALL the earth; break out  
in praise and sing for joy!

Psalms 98:4 (NLT)

## ENCOURAGING YOUNG MUSICIANS

### Dunes Music Education Fund Lessons Resume This Fall

Eleven young piano students and one pipe organ student will resume free lessons this September after the summer break. Their instructors, Dianne Prieditis, Laura Quigley, and Marna Jeffery look forward to another successful year.

Since 2022, \$18,500 has been contributed to the pilot program of the Dunes Music Education Fund by the donor family, friends, and generous Dunes members. Although sufficient funds remain to resume lessons this fall, about \$5,000 more is needed to finish the 2024/2025 school year. We are pleased to report that \$2,500 has recently been pledged to make this possible.

If you are able and interested in supporting this program there are flyers with more information at the welcome desk in the narthex (the entry area to the worship space) or you can contact the church office.



#### **WHAT: Community Choir Opportunity**

Choral experience preferred, but not necessary. No auditions.

#### **WHO: Anyone from the Local Area**

Like to sing? Come join us! All are welcome.

#### **WHEN: Thursday mornings 10:30 - 11:30am**

September 19, 2024 - May 2025

#### **WHERE: Church of the Dunes**

717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven

#### **WHY:**

To bring folks together who enjoy singing music of all kinds. Fun and healthy for body, mind and soul!

#### **COST: FREE**

*For more information, please contact Church of the Dunes. (616) 842-7980 | [office@umcdunes.org](mailto:office@umcdunes.org)*