

# Dunes Digest



## PASTOR'S NOTES

### How Do You Measure 151 Years?

*Rev. Lou Grettenberger, Pastor*

525,600 minutes, how do you measure, measure a year? This is the opening prelude to the stage hit "Rent." 79,365,600 minutes, how do you measure, measure 151 years in the church? Honestly, we measure it with a lot of lives impacted over time by the love and spirit of God. This spirit did and does reside in this congregation and is shared through loving acts of compassion to the world around us.

Last year was the 150<sup>th</sup> year of our congregation in the Tri-Cities area, which makes this our 150-plus-1 anniversary. We didn't pause adequately in 2023 to say thanks to the God who has brought us safe thus far. Over 151 years, the church location has changed. Children have been raised. Babies and adults have been baptized. Generations of people have come and gone. The Kingdom of God has grown through this church's work, and we and our ancestors have had the privilege of participating in that ministry. 79,365,600 minutes is a lot of time to make a difference. God, through this congregation, has done just that!

Come celebrate this ministry on our congregation's Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24 during the 9:30 a.m. service. We will gather to worship and share some memories from the past. After worship, there will be an opportunity to see some of the early documents, including pictures, old directories, and other memorabilia from this church's history. This is our way of saying thank you to God for using us in the important work of "Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Then, please come back to church that evening (November 24 at 5:00 p.m.) for a Thanksgiving potluck feast as we add one more day of joy and blessing to the many already experienced here at United Methodist Church of the Dunes. It will be a blast.

One final note—we added 5 new members to Church of the Dunes' congregation on October 21. Four more have taken the Inquirer's Class and are committed to joining the church on a Sunday that fits their schedules. Our prayers are being answered. Lives are being transformed. People are discovering a loving community here and finding transformation and restoration.

Through the month of December (Advent begins December 1), we will be celebrating the overarching theme of Restoration. We will be inviting God to Restore our peace, hope, love and joy! Please join us for all for our Advent and our Christmas Eve services.

## Celebrating

**Chaw Grettenberger**, daughter of Pastor Lou and Karen Grettenberger, married Chris Barber on October 12 on the shores of East Traverse Bay in Elk Rapids, Michigan. Congratulations to Mr. Chris and Mrs. Chaw Barber!

## 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)

## Calendar Highlights

Sunday, November 3

### All Saints Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 7

### Ruby John, fiddler with John Warstler, guitar

7:00 p.m.

*Free concert*

Sunday, November 10

### Church of the Dunes Annual Conference

Please see information below

Sunday, November 24

### Thanksgiving Worship and Celebration of 151 Years

9:30 a.m.

### Thanksgiving Potluck Feast

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 1

### First Sunday of Advent Worship

9:30 a.m.

## Church of the Dunes Annual Conference and Conference Hub - November 10

On Sunday, November 10, Church of the Dunes will hold its annual business meeting at 2:00 p.m. at church. All are welcome; church members are eligible to vote. Six other UMC churches will hold their annual conferences at Church of the Dunes on the same afternoon.

2:00 p.m. Annual Conferences:

United Methodist Church of the Dunes, Valley UMC (Allendale), First UMC (Holland), Coopersville UMC

3:00 p.m.

Conversation and refreshments for all in the Wiltse Center fellowship area

4:30 p.m. Annual Conferences:

Marne UMC, Grandville UMC, and Georgetown UMC

## SHARING MUSIC

### Dunes Concert Series - Free Concert: Ruby John, Fiddler



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

*at Church of the Dunes*

Ruby John is a traditional fiddler and a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Her music includes Métis, Celtic, and standard county-and-mountain styles. She has performed throughout the United States and Canada. The talented John Warstler is on guitar. Supported by a generous and ongoing donation, this concert is free and open to the public.



### Free Pickleball Clinic

Tuesday, November 19

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Wiltse Center fellowship area

Instructor: Coach Jaron

Jaron has won multiple medals at the 5.0 level and plays pickleball on the pro tour.

## SERVING THOSE IN NEED

### Pastor's Fund Assists in Emergencies; Support Needed

For the past several years, this church has ministered to folks who have family emergencies, such as gas needed for their cars, past-due utility bills which have led to shut-off notices, stranded travelers needing overnight stays, and more. These needs are most often discovered when a person comes to the church building, typically on a weekday, seeking help. Responses are dealt with through the church office with Pastor Lou's approval, on a case-by-case emergency basis. The fund used for this is called "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" and all monies in the fund go to relieving human need in and outside of our congregation.

If you would like to contribute to this important mission, in addition to your regular giving, please designate your check(s) for "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" and the money will be used for support of the purpose outlined above.



Please make plans to come back to church for this fabulous feast on Sunday afternoon, November 24 at 5:00 p.m. in the Wiltse Center fellowship area. Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and beverages are provided. Please bring a side dish to share and your own plate and utensils.

RSVPs are a help with planning—watch for opportunities to sign up in upcoming Sunday bulletins, or contact the church office. Let’s start the countdown to November 24. It is sure to be a delicious, fun, and memorable Thanksgiving event.

## LIVING WELL IN THE SECOND HALF

### Upcoming Meet-Ups With Finishing Well Ministry

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



Finishing Well Ministry serves those 55+ with classes, informational workshops, social gatherings, and meet-ups for activities, theater, and special programs. Here are two upcoming meet-ups:

**“Women of the Watch, Keepers of the Light”** is a one-woman performance at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in Grand Haven on Thursday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m. Theater artist Anna Kamryn Marck presents 45 minutes of uplifting music, laughter, and story telling about family trips to the lighthouses of Michigan, and spectacular stories of female lighthouse keepers of the Great Lakes. Admission at the door is \$15.

Local community theater company **Central Park Players** gets us in the Christmas spirit with **“Miracle on 34th Street”** on Saturday, December 14 at 1:30 p.m. The senior ticket rate is \$10. You can buy them online at [centralparkplayers.org](http://centralparkplayers.org), or by calling the box office at (616) 229-0530, or at the door, if still available. Please note: the box office is only open immediately prior to a performance. Our group usually sits in Row H.

# family|ministries

## ANNOUNCEMENT AND INTRODUCTION

### Church of the Dunes Welcomes a New Director of Family Ministries

Church of the Dunes is thrilled to welcome Jodie Freeman to the staff. Jodie has already been hard at work preparing for Sunday School classes and upcoming activities for children. Let's take a few minutes now to get to know her better. Jodie writes,

"I am very excited to begin as the new Director of Family Ministries with Church of the Dunes! I am bringing a lot of ideas, dreams, and hopes for a bright future.

Recently, I was reflecting on the many years I have been a part of this church. I first sat in the pews in the sanctuary as a 7-year-old little girl. Back then, the floors were tiled, and the pews didn't have pads yet. While the building has gone through many changes over the years, one thing has always been a constant for me: the complete and comforting feeling of being "home." I have lived in 2 states, 2 countries, and 27 different daily homes since then, and having Church of the Dunes as my solid earthly home has been a true blessing.

My husband Ron Kurburski has been a lifelong member of Church of the Dunes, and we share 4 grown children, and 10 grandchildren. Our grandchildren would be the first to mention additional members of our family - our cat, 2 chickens, and 4 koi fish in our little pond.

Although I have spent the past few decades working in the field of real estate acquisition, my early career was in education, working for the Department of Defense Schools abroad, and upon my return to the United States, Grand Haven Community Education and Spring Lake Public Schools. Over the years I have been active in the community through Rotary, Downtown District Authority, the Eagles, Kid's Food Basket, and Girl Scouting as a leader.

I am also a lifelong artist and have some hopes and dreams of bringing some fun programming to the church surrounding that creative ambition.

In the coming weeks in Sunday School, we will explore God's promises, and the ways God provides for us.

Thank you to everyone who helped to encourage me down this path. Your prayers mean a lot to me. And now, let's get started!"

Sunday School for children takes place during Sunday morning worship. Children are invited to come to worship with their families, then after the Children's Time in the service, follow the teachers to the classroom.



# Grow in Faith

## November Studies and Discussion Groups for Adults

*This year's Advent Studies are listed on the next page.*

### 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.

**Faith**  
**Linked**

### Fourth Monday Reading Group

“The Vanishing Half” by Brit Bennett

Monday, November 18, 1:30 p.m., at Panera Bread, Grand Haven

*Please note this month's meeting is a week earlier than usual.*

Gayle Cox, facilitator

“The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?”

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



### December Sunday Book Discussion Group

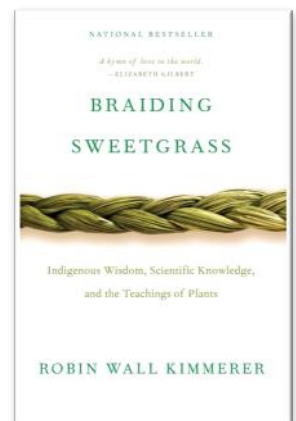
“Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Sunday, December 8, 3:00 p.m., Ryder Lounge, main floor

Jill Miller, facilitator

“Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices...For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.”

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



# Grow in Faith

## 2024 Advent Studies

*Cathy Shick, Adult Education Coordinator*

Church of the Dunes is offering three Advent studies this year. Descriptions and meeting schedules are provided below. Books will be available at coffee fellowship time on Sunday November 10 and 17. Please sign up for the classes on the Adult Ministry board near the office or email the facilitator. For assistance in making the connection, contact the church office.



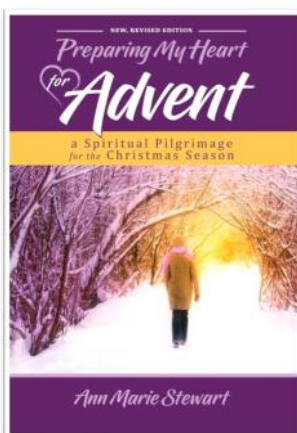
### ***Our Hope Has Come***

by Lifeway Women

This study takes a closer look at the Christmas story and the hope revealed in the lives of people. We will be reminded that God works on our behalf too.

Meet us in Room 13/14 at 1:00 pm on the following Mondays: December 2, 9, 16, and 23. The book cost is \$9.

*Facilitator: Ruth Woodward*



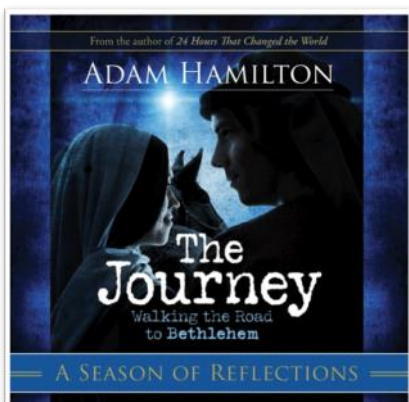
### ***Preparing My Heart for Advent***

by Ann Marie Stewart

This study encourages us to stop and experience Immanuel, "God with us. Join us as we prepare for Christmas by looking at scriptures, songs, and symbols.

We will meet Tuesdays in Room 2 (lower level) at 10:00 a.m. on November 26, December 3, 10, and 17. The book cost is \$11.

*Facilitator: Cathy Shick*



### ***The Journey - A Season of Reflections***

by Adam Hamilton

This is a book of meditations based on the journey of Mary and Joseph. Along the way we will talk about Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, the shepherds, and the wise men. Videos of the journey through the Holy Land will be part of the class.

We will meet in the Ryder Lounge on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. on November 20, December 4, 11, and 18. The book cost is \$10.

*Facilitator: Cathy Shick*

*Book images: amazon.com*



## Worship Arts Ministry: Notes from the Loft

By Megan Horist, Director of Worship Arts

November 2023

### DUNES CONCERT SERIES

The first concert of the 24-25 season was fantastic! Thanks to everyone who came out and supported this new ministry. Our next concert will be **Thursday, November 7, at 7:00pm** in the Sanctuary. We'll host accomplished fiddler, Ruby John, with John Warstler on guitar. Come out to enjoy some great music, hang out with your friends and maybe learn something new! We hope to see you there!

### ADVENT DECORATORS NEEDED!

The worship team will be getting the Sanctuary ready for Advent and Christmas on **Sunday, November 24 following fellowship time** and we need your help! Contact Meg Horist or Gwen Bartels for more information.

### ARTS OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities in music at the Dunes:

- **Chancel Choir** is open to all singers high School through adult. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm.
- **Bells of Glory** rehearses on Mondays from 7-8pm. Please see Megan for more information.
- **Strings and Things Guitar Club** meets on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:45pm. No experience necessary! Come to learn to play or just practice with friends.

Megan

## COMING UP IN WORSHIP

**NOVEMBER 3** All Saints Sunday, Communion, **CHANCEL CHOIR** in worship

**NOVEMBER 10** **BELLS OF GLORY** in worship

**NOVEMBER 17** **CHANCEL CHOIR** in worship

**NOVEMBER 24** Thanksgiving Sunday & 151st Anniversary Celebration, Mission Moment

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Dunes Concert Series  
Thursday, November 7, 7:00pm  
Ruby John, fiddler  
with guitarist John Warstler





## FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

### Brown Bag Food Gathering for The Salvation Army Food Pantry

*Church of the Dunes Missions and Social Concerns Commission*



The next Brown Bag non-perishable food gathering is Sunday, November 24. The food gathered will go to help stock the pantry at the local Salvation Army. On the two Sundays prior, brown paper grocery bags will be available after worship, with a list of most-needed items attached to the bag. To participate, take a bag(s), shop for some items on the list, and return the bag to church before or on November 24. Of course, you are also welcome to use the bags provided when you shop. The pantry's needs are great; many are in need of food. Remember, you don't need to shop for *everything* on the list, just choose the items that work well for you and your giving budget.

#### General Grocery Items

canned fruit (high demand), canned vegetables, canned beans (red, white, baked), applesauce, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, syrup, instant oatmeal, breakfast bars, pasta, pasta sauce, chunky-style soups, chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, skillet meals (Hamburger Helper style), macaroni and cheese, canned chunk chicken, canned tuna, fruit juice, shelf-stable milk, ketchup, mayonnaise, flour, sugar, vegetable oil

#### Holiday Meal Items

instant mashed potatoes, jars of gravy, stuffing mix, canned green beans, canned corn, cream of mushroom soup, dried onion rings, canned sweet potatoes, canned pumpkin, canned evaporated milk

#### Household Items

laundry soap, dish soap, paper towel, toilet paper

## GIVING

### Christmas Gift Tree for Kids Belong

*Church of the Dunes Missions and Social Concerns Commission*

The Missions team will be sponsoring a gift tree at church starting in mid-November for Kids Belong, which is a local organization that supports foster and adoptive families. Folks will have the opportunity to take a gift tag ornament from the tree and purchase the suggested item and return it to the base of the tree prior to Christmas for the foster children to ensure they have everything they need for a happy Christmas. Some of the items may be things needed to supply the Kids Belong Foster Closet, which ensures families are supplied with needed items as they take in children coming to them with little to nothing. Our generosity is a sign of Christ's love for the little ones.



## STEWARDSHIP GIFTS

## Mission Giving Report: Third Quarter 2024

Complied by Church of the Dunes' Finance Manager for the Missions and Social Concerns Commission

		Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD
Age Well Services	Contributions	-	100	-	100
Cass Community Social Services	Mission Moment	-	1,794	1,820	3,614
Family Promise	Budgeted Contribution	-	500	-	500
Family Promise	Contributions	-	600	-	600
Family Promise	Family Meals	-	732	192	924
Fresh Coast Alliance	Mission Moment	-	-	670	670
Friends of Crop Walk	Missions Special Projects	-	-	500	500
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	Budgeted Contribution - Food Truck	-	-	850	850
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	-	900	1,700
Michigan Conference	UMCOR Contributions	300	1,100	200	1,600
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	225	270
Michigan Conference	UMCOR - Mission Moment	-	-	607	607
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	1,892	3,783
Supper House	Contributions	-	300	-	300
Teen Challenge	Mission Moment	100	-	-	100
The People Center	Hunger Offering	938	-	1,592	2,530
The People Center	Budgeted Contribution	500	-	500	1,000
The Salvation Army	Hunger Offering	984	1,273	1,440	3,697
The Salvation Army	Mission Moment	-	803	-	803
United Women in Faith	Contributions - Chickens	-	-	1,665	1,665
United Women in Faith	Contributions	100	2,300	-	2,400
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,223</b>	<b>17,857</b>	<b>13,053</b>	<b>43,133</b>

## REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY

### **Dreamweavers Collaborate with UWF for Community Outreach**

*Ruth Woodward, Team Member, Church of the Dunes Dreamweavers*

The Church of the Dunes Dreamweavers team explores creative ways to grow Church of the Dunes into the future. With the administrative council's approval, this team was formed 2022, and has since been meeting regularly to discuss and discern new and enhanced ways to reach out into the community. Dreamweavers has helped and supported several ministry groups in the church to put these ideas and visions into action.

One such group is the United Women in Faith, (UWF) formally known as United Methodist Women. The name was changed nationally in 2022 in an effort to be more inclusive. The group's mission is to support women, children and youth and to inspire and impact local and global communities. Church of the Dunes' UWF conducts a number of fundraisers to benefit women and children locally, nationally, and internationally. The 2023 Christmas bazaar raised thousands of dollars for missions. And who can forget the successful fundraiser to purchase a cow for meat to feed area families in need? Most recently, UWF raised over \$1,600 to purchase chicken for area food pantries. UWF members are always busy and our congregation is extremely generous.

Here at the Church of the Dunes we consider all women members of UWF. Within the group there are four smaller groups called circles: Esther Circle, Mary Circle, Ruth Circle, and the Craft Circle. UWF continually strives to reach out to new members and visitors to join one or more of the groups. This year, UWF hosted two events and welcomed women from all over the community. A spring retreat, "Putting the Pieces Together" featured a keynote speaker who is an author and life coach. The summer Garden Party featured a speaker who shared information about herbs of the Bible. Church of the Dunes United Women in Faith looks forward to extending community invitations to other upcoming events including the Candlelight Christmas event on December 5 and the Cookie Walk and Boutique on December 14. At each event, UWF provides information about all the wonderful things happening here at Church of the Dunes and encourages visitors to join us on a regular basis.

So....can you feel it? The Holy Spirit is indeed moving in our church!




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*You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream.*

*~ C.S. Lewis ~*

## CREATING AND CREATIVITY

### Fun in November at Craft Circle

*Ann Antaya, Church of the Dunes Craft Circle*

Did you know many of our crafters have a PhD? According to presenter Chris Hornby, PhD stands for Projects half Done or as some of us can attest, Piled higher and Deeper. Whether or not you have a degree or are just a curious crafter, please join us.

Craft Circle will meet next on Thursday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ryder Lounge (main floor, near the sanctuary). There will be an easy craft with all materials provided. If you would like to share your current project please bring it for an informal show and tell.

Craft Circle welcomes everyone. No sign-ups are necessary. Just come and enjoy the fun.



### December Dates to Note

#### Candlelight Christmas

Thursday, December 5, 2024

This is a special evening of music and readings for the season.

#### Cookie Walk and Boutique

Saturday, December 14, 2024

There will be a beautiful array of holiday goodies, along with hand-crafted seasonal items. Proceeds go to missions.

### Just for grins...

What do you call a pumpkin that works at the beach?  
A life gourd.

Why did the apple pie cross the road?  
It saw a fork ahead.

How do you repair a broken jack-o-lantern?  
You use a pumpkin patch.

