

Dunes Digest



PASTOR'S NOTES

Thoughts About Harvest

Rev. Lou Grettenberger, Pastor

October is a time where many people groups in this hemisphere celebrate with harvest festivals of one sort or another. Harvest festivals are celebrations that honor the crops that have been brought in, the livings that have been earned, and the Creator that made it all. As I think about this year in ministry, I am excited about all that God has recently accomplished through the ministries of the Church of the Dunes. We have so much to reflect upon, and so much for which to be thankful.

First, our ministry is growing. Worship attendance, both in person and online, has steadily increased. Sometimes I think we could measure this worship growth in decibels and degrees. To sing in our congregation is to find oneself immersed in the loud, beautiful sounds of joyful wonder. The warmth of this congregation and its welcome to all is palpable—warming more all the time. Like in the Book of Acts, with thanks to God, we are adding to our numbers day by day.

At the church and at locations in the community, the whirl of weekday church activity continues. The chair yoga class recently exceeded the 30 mats they had available. One Tuesday recently we had over twenty pickleball players enjoying fellowship and the game. Daily, a Bible study or book discussion group is meeting in some corner of the church or community.

Our mission and social concerns team is humming in harmony with our Dunesman and United Women in Faith. We are helping to build houses, buying chickens and cows to feed the hungry, housing families, feeding our neighbors, fighting for justice, providing counselling through local ministries, and much more. We are now more than tithing (10%+) of our total revenue to local and global missions.

Recently, we kicked-off the new Dunes Concert Series which will add to our community-based, music outreach of free lessons for children, and a community choir which has recently expanded to 30 people. Music? Music is here! All these programs have become feeder groups to our Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and Celebration Choir.

At the church, new people are everywhere, and they are coming in all ages, shapes, and sizes. People are being drawn to a new or renewed relationship with God in Jesus Christ through our ministry. The harvest is plentiful and so are the willing servants in our congregation. I am so grateful! Let's stop for a moment, celebrate, and then continue working to bless our neighbors as we give God all the glory!

Pastor Lou



October Calendar Notes

Tuesday, October 1

New Women’s Bible Study begins - page 5

Sunday, October 6

CROP Walk—page 3

New Member Inquirer Class—page 9

Thursday, October 10

More Tales from an Eclectic Quilter—page 9

Sunday, October 27

Birthday Party: Let’s Celebrate 90-Somethings—page 4

Monday, October 28

4th Monday Reading Group—page 5

What’s coming up in November?

Find out on page 10.

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

United Methodist Church of the Dunes

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Jodie Freeman is the new Director of Family Ministries at Church of the Dunes. She is a long-time member of the church who has volunteered countless hours with Sunday School and family activities. Jodie brings ideas, enthusiasm, skills, and creativity that will be blessings to the Family Ministry program.

OPEN DOORS

Church of the Dunes Hosts Community and Regional Events

Church of the Dunes has the privilege to host two big events at the church in the coming weeks.

50th Tri-Cities CROP Hunger Walk - October 6

On Sunday, October 6, CROP walk participants will gather at Church of the Dunes to sign-in, have a few minutes for worship and prayer, and step off on this year's CROP walk. Many churches in the community participate in this annual event, and it is an honor to host this very special 50th year of the local walk. Funds raised support the work of Church World Service in addressing hunger across the globe and a portion of the funds remain in the local community.

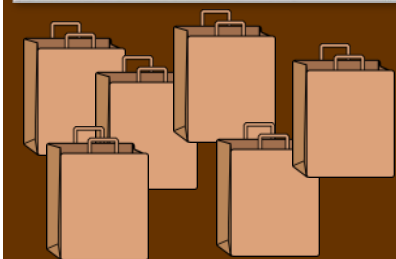


Western Waters District Fall Church Conference Hub - November 10

On Sunday, November 10, Church of the Dunes will host a Western Waters District fall annual conference hub beginning at 2:00 p.m. United Methodist Church (UMC) District Superintendents (DS) continue to cover larger geographic areas in their work overseeing pastors and churches in their districts. In recent years, church conference hubs have allowed a group of churches in a region to gather in one location to hold their annual meetings, and allowed the DS to attend several of these meetings in one day. Church of the Dunes will hold its annual conference at 2:00 p.m., as will Valley UMC from Allendale, First UMC from Holland, and Coopersville UMC. At 3:00 p.m. there will be time for conversation and refreshments. At 4:30 p.m., United Methodist Churches from Marne, Grandville, and Georgetown will hold their conferences.



Thanks to your generosity, many, many bags of non-perishable food and personal care products were delivered to the pantry at The People Center in Spring Lake on September 8. What a blessing to be able to share so much with those in need in our community! The next Brown Bag food gathering is on November 24 for the local Salvation Army pantry. Please watch for more information.



LIVING WELL IN THE SECOND HALF

Updates from the Finishing Well Ministry

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



You are so important to the Church of the Dunes! You are the 55+ age group which constitutes a large part of our membership and friends. The Finishing Well Leadership Team is always open to suggestions of what you would like to learn more about, what you would like to do socially, and what new interests you would like to explore. So, as you can see, this group is all about YOU! Please talk to us; let's get your ideas!

CPR/AED Class in October

The Finishing Well Ministry is planning a presentation on CPR/AED to take place in October. CPR is a procedure to keep the blood pumping when the heart stops until trained medical help arrives, while AED is a machine that can get the heart started again after it stops. This presentation will be an opportunity to learn the basics of CPR using a life-like "Annie" (training mannequin). The importance of AED (Automated External Defibrillator) equipment will also be explained. Church of the Dunes is blessed to have several AED boxes mounted on the walls throughout the church. The American Heart Association has stated that the survival rate of the victims nearly doubles when AED is administered along with CPR. These procedures can save a life and your participation is important. Date and time of this presentation will be coming soon.



Celebrate 90-Somethings - October 27

Please save the date for this year's celebration of church members who are 90-something. There will be cake and more after worship on Sunday, October 27.

Coming Soon - Planned Giving Presentation

Finishing Well is organizing a planned-giving presentation with Robert Mann as our guide. If you have not already, this is a good time to begin thinking about your legacy and how your assets will benefit your family and your church into the future. There will be no sales, just information to begin planning. Knowledge is power, and careful planning ahead can reduce stress later. Please watch for the date and details.

Art Exhibit



Inspired by the July Red Skelton tribute performance, the current art exhibit in the Ryder Lounge features four paintings by Red Skelton on loan from a private collection. Works with a Red Skelton theme, created by Church of the Dunes artists, are also on display until the end of this month. The lounge is located on the main floor of the church, near the sanctuary.

Grow in Faith

October 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.

Faith
Linked

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

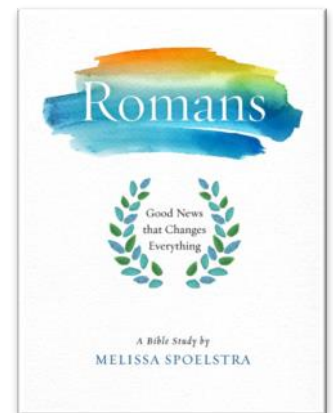
“Good News that Changes Everything” by Melissa Spoelstra

Begins Tuesday, October 1, 10:00 a.m., six weeks, Room 2 (lower level)

Cathy Shick, facilitator

All women are invited as we explore the Book of Romans. It can feel like we encounter bad news all the time from news, media, and more. Author Melissa Spoelstra reminds us that we can't lose sight of God's good news as she highlights the good news of faith, grace, daily life, and eternity.

There is a sign-up sheet on the adult ministries bulletin board located near the church office. The book is \$10 and available from the facilitator.



Fourth Monday Reading Group

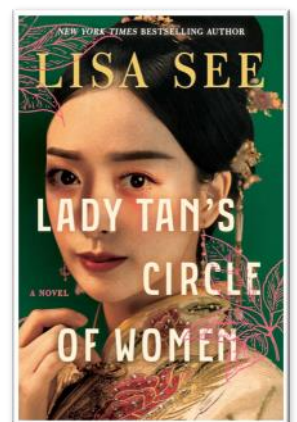
“Lady Tan’s Circle of Women” by Lisa See

Monday, October 28, 1:30 p.m., at Panera Bread, Grand Haven

Gayle Cox, facilitator

The story takes place during the Ming dynasty in China and is a captivating story of women helping each other. “From a young age, Yunxian learns about women’s illnesses, many of which relate to childbearing, alongside a young midwife-in-training, Meiling. The two girls find fast friendship and a mutual purpose...and they vow to be forever friends, sharing in each other’s joys and struggles. No mud, no lotus, they tell themselves: from adversity beauty can bloom.”

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



Book images and summaries: Amazon.com

Did you know...

Church of the Dunes' library is continually adding new books and resources? Check out the library's hallway window to see what's new, and stop in anytime on Sunday mornings or during church office hours. The check-out system is easy to use and all are welcome to peruse the shelves.



Worship Arts Ministry: Notes from the Loft

by Megan Horist, Director of Worship Arts

OCTOBER 2024

Musical Opportunities

The Chancel Choir and the Bells of Glory have resumed rehearsals and will be singing and ringing in worship on a regular basis moving forward! Our weekly guitar lessons have also resumed for the season on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Celebration choir began in September and did a fabulous job! We will be back again in March. Stay tuned for rehearsals dates and times. Come and sing! If you're interested in joining any of these groups, please see Megan Horist. We'd love to see you!

Children in Worship

We often have children acolytes (lighting the candles) at the beginning of worship. If your child is interested, please let me know, and we'll get you on the schedule! If your child is interested in being a reader for worship service, we would love to have them involved. Please talk to Megan Horist.

Dunes Concert Series

Our first concert of the 24-25 season was fantastic! Thanks to everyone who came out and supported this new ministry and our new friends, CANDID ANTICS. Our next concert will be Thursday, November 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We'll host 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!

COMING UP IN WORSHIP

- OCT 6** **Communion Sunday**
CHANCEL CHOIR
In worship
- OCT 13** **BELLS OF GLORY**
in worship
- OCT 20** **CHANCEL CHOIR**
in worship
- OCT 27** **GUITAR CLUB**
in worship
Mission Moment:
FAMILY PROMISE



Everything on earth worships you;
singing your praises,
and shouting your name
in glorious songs." PSALM 66:4



REACHING OUT WITH MUSIC

Dreamweavers Team Shares Concerts with Community

Rich Cole, Team Member, Church of the Dunes Dreamweavers

Dreamweavers was formed in 2022 to explore creative ways to support and grow Church of the Dunes into the future. Authorized by the church's administrative council, and made up of a group of church members, leaders, and the pastor, the team meets regularly to work on its objectives.

One primary objective is to find ways to grow our congregation through better connections with the community. Our belief is that exposing as many people as possible not only to the beautiful church building, but to our friendly caring congregation as well, will help achieve this goal.



With that in mind, and with the help of the church's director of worship arts and the Memorial Music Fund, Church of the Dunes is hosting the Dunes Concert Series, through which we hope to share the gift of music with our congregation and with the community at large.

Current plans for the series include three concerts, and began with "Candid Antics" on September 26. The talented, six-piece, West-Michigan-based band performed modern jazz with both old-school and new-age influences.

Next up on November 7 at 7:00 p.m. is Ruby John, fiddler, who along with John Warstler on guitar, will play a mix of Métis, Celtic, Bluegrass, standard country, and mountain styles. This music is sure to appeal to a wide audience.

We are also looking to schedule one or two additional concerts this winter and/or early spring. We expect the concert series to be ongoing and already have an additional concert scheduled for May 15, featuring legendary folk singer-songwriter, Joel Mabus.

All concerts are intended to be free of charge although occasional free-will offerings may be taken to support timely needs or specific charities.

Numerous Church of the Dunes members and friends have volunteered to be "Ambassadors" at these concerts, helping guests feel comfortable and welcome.

We look forward to sharing great music with our community as well as our church family. Can you feel it? The Holy Spirit is moving in our church as we begin and share this new ministry!

The true beauty of music is that it connects people.

Roy Ayers

BLESSING WITH GENEROSITY

Planned Giving and Memorial Fund Approve Scholarships, Make Upgrades

Robert Mann, Chairperson, Planned Giving and Memorial Fund Committee

The Memorial Fund continues its support of various church projects. Three Fall Education Grants have recently been approved, which will assist the applicants in their ongoing education. Over the last three years, a total of ten applications from members and affiliates have been approved, all funded by generous donors wishing to help with the cost of further education.

Over the course of 2024 to date, the Memorial Fund has been pleased to support a variety of requests for support, including:

- the banner project – creating a more durable and efficient means of hoisting banners in the sanctuary
- the purchase of two media carts – one for each level of the church building – to improve remote access to on-site meetings, Bible studies, and activities
- additional signage to assist visitors
- additional high-top tables to enhance fellowship time
- support for the purchase of safe bags and locks to improve the security of medication and firearms in homes
- new chairs to help choir members when standing and sitting

Church of the Dunes initiated the Dunes Concert Series this fall, made possible by a generous and ongoing memorial gift honoring a church member. This will enable the church to provide free concerts featuring a variety of music types and artists – a blessing in our beautiful church surroundings.

The committee is continually open to reviewing proposals for funding matches for congregational projects. Please contact me via the church office if you have specific projects in mind. Please also contact me with questions relating to our Heritage Fellowship legacy giving program, or other items relating to estate planning.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

*What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments,
but what is woven into the lives of others.*

~ Pericles ~

CREATING AND CREATIVITY

October Program Features Award-winning Quilter

Ann Antaya, Church of the Dunes Craft Circle



Craft Circle presents, “More Tales from an Eclectic Quilter” Thursday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ryder Lounge (near the sanctuary). Award winning quilter Cyndi Phillip is a member of several quilt guilds as well as a longtime member of Church of the Dunes. She is a retired school librarian and tech teacher. Robyn Daane, Craft Circle’s co-chair, wrote, “Cyndi started crafting very young. She enjoys quilting, machine embroidery and making Cartonnage boxes. Sewing is her passion.”

Craft Circle welcomes everyone. No sign-ups are necessary. Just come on October 10 and enjoy the program.



Fall is for Fowl Fundraiser Challenge Thank You

Church of the Dunes United Women in Faith challenged the congregation to match its \$1000 donation to purchase chicken for local food pantries. Within a few short weeks, the match goal was exceeded. Thank you!



New Member Inquirer Class

October 6, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

If you are interested in learning more about Church of the Dunes and/or becoming a member, this class is for you. Contact the church office to sign up. While new members are always a blessing to this church community, there is no obligation to join.

New members will be received during worship on October 20, or later for any who may not be available on that date.

Looking Ahead - For Your November Calendar
at Church of the Dunes

Free Concert

Ruby John, Fiddler

with John Warstler on guitar

Thursday, November 7

7:00 p.m.

Church of the Dunes Annual Conference

and Fall church conference hub for 7 West-Michigan UMC congregations

Sunday, November 10

Church of the Dunes' meeting

2:30 p.m.

Conversation and refreshments for all

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Additional conference meetings held

4:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Worship

Honoring Church of the Dunes 151 Years

Sunday, November 24

9:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving Potluck Feast

Hosted by The Dunesmen

Sunday, November 24

5:00 p.m.

Just for grins...

Why couldn't the pony sing a lullaby?
She was a little horse.

What do you call an illegally parked frog?
Toad.

Why do golfers wear two pairs of pants?
In case they get a hole in one.

