

Dunes Digest



USING A 'SO THAT' APPROACH

Pastor's Thoughts

Rev. Lou Grettenberger, Pastor

I have recently been reviewing a book I have read before by Lovett Weems Jr. and Tom Berlin: Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results. We were asked a few years ago to read this book in preparation for an Annual Conference (a meeting of our state-wide church). I am reading this book again to remind myself of information that I have known for years and need to remember.

Chapter 3 focuses on two simple words: "so that." In the context of ministry those two words can be very important in our pursuit of fruitful ministry. The Bible routinely uses those two words to expose the mission and purpose of God and God's people--what we might call "the why" of ministry. The writers remind us that if the activities of our lives as disciples or our common life of ministry in the church don't have a "so that," then it may be time to put some of those misdirected activities to rest, so that the time, energy, and resources we have can be focused on what matters most.

Please join me in incorporating this "so that" language into the administrative working and decision making of Church of the Dunes. This is one of the reasons we formed our Dreamweavers Group. If someone says "I want to start a _____ ministry", ask that person to phrase the request as a "so that" statement that ties to our mission and vision statement. For instance, "I want to start a small group for young adults, *so that* young adults will have a place to share with people like themselves about their life and faith so that they will feel more included in our community of faith."

We don't do ministry "just cuz," we do ministry "so that." The more purposeful we become in our approach, the more fruitful we will become in our ministry.

During this Lenten season, we remember God's so-that statement. "God so loved the world that he gave his only son, (so) that whoever believed in him would not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

The salvation and transformation of the world hinges on a purposeful God and a loving fruitful Savior, who lived, died and was raised so that we might have abundant life. Then Christ delegated the work to people just like us, to anyone who follow Jesus' way.

Continued next page

Remembrance

Betty Thompson

Died on March 5, 2025

Louie VanRaalte

Died on February 24, 2025

Please keep their loved ones in your prayers.

Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

All are welcome!

Livestream available at 9:30 a.m. on the church's YouTube channel.

Recordings of the services are also available there. 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

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The authors went on to say that the evaluation of the ministry's effectiveness should be judged, not so much by our work or busyness, but by the fruit (outcomes) our ministry produces. I am pleased to share that our congregation has more families asking to join, people requesting baptism, and people telling stories of how they have been touched and welcomed by the people of this congregation. People are finding life, love and transformation here. Keep up the Go(o)d work.

- Pastor Lou



Holy Week Calendar

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 18 – Good Friday

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday

Resurrection Day Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.

*** **Reminder** ***

Resurrection Day Garden order forms are due by Monday, April 7

Contact the church office for more information.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Travelogue Series Kicks off this Spring

Susan Thorpe, Coordinator, Finishing Well Ministry

Spring is here! Finishing Well is planning for a great spring calendar! We are starting the season off with a series of travelogues:

On Sunday, April 13 at 2:00 p.m., some of our members who have traveled the world will be giving presentations on their trips. First, the Manns will be presenting on their trips to New Zealand and Australia. Then, the Parsons will present on their trip to the Netherlands, followed by the DeBone's trip to Hawaii.



On Sunday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m., the travelogue presentations will begin with the Kish's trip to Australia, followed by Rich and Gay Cole's trip on the Rhine River. Then, the Mahovichs will present on their trip to Paris, followed by the Woodward's presentation of their trips to the national parks.

Each trip's presentation will be about 30 minutes and will be followed with time for a Q&A. All travelogue events will take place in the Ryder Lounge (main floor). Light snacks will be provided. Contact Susan Thorpe for more information.

Nothing like armchair traveling!

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

Church of the Dunes at the West Michigan Whitecaps

Dale Zurakowski, Finishing Well Ministry

Join us for a West Michigan Whitecaps baseball game! The game will be on Sunday, June 22 at 1:00 p.m. at LMCU Ballpark in Grand Rapids. Finishing Well is hoping to get as many Church of the Dunes members and their families/friends to attend the game as possible. We have reserved the Premium Seats, which are \$21 a ticket and include a padded seat with additional leg room. Dale Zurakowski will be available to take orders during coffee fellowship time in the Wiltse Center (main floor) on Sunday, May 11 and Sunday, May 18. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday, May 18. More information will be available in future bulletins and newsletters.



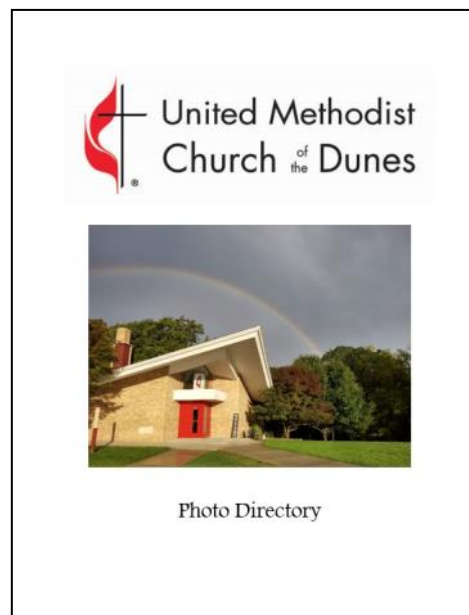
LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Coming Soon: New Photo Directory!

Office of Church of the Dunes

It is time for a new Church of the Dunes photo directory. This gives us a chance to add new members to the directory and to update existing contact information. This year, we are going to do something different. Instead of professional photographs (and high-pressure salespeople), we will be asking you to submit casual photos to the office. Not sure how to do that? No worries! You can sign up to have our Communications Lead, Madelyn, take your picture here at church on a Sunday after worship.

More details to come!



PICK UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF

Craft Circle Continues Dresser Scarves for Hope House

Ann Antaya, Church of the Dunes Craft Circle

Crafters frequently experience “project interruptus.” It is a chronic condition, highly contagious with no known cure. A few months ago, Craft Circle began sewing dresser scarves for the women at Hope House. That project had to be set aside, but it is now time to resume working on those dresser scarves! Craft Circle will meet Thursday, April 10 at 10 a.m. in Room 2 (lower level). We need sewing machines as well as people to fold, turn, and clip the edges of the quilt pieces that make up the dresser scarves.



FUTURE FUN FOR FAMILY MINISTRIES

Supporting Community, Learning, and Growth

Jodie Freeman, Director, Family Ministries

We are journeying down the road, walking through the Lenten season together. In March we learned to play Pickleball during our Youth Group fellowship time. A very special thank you to Bruce Bishop, Karen Aspenson, and Matt Horist for teaching us how to play the game!

In February, we began a trial run of a new toddler and preschool playgroup. This group provides both kids and their parents with time to socialize in a safe and friendly environment. We will host another trial session in March. If these sessions continue to go well, we plan to bring this into regular rotation for Family Ministries programming. If you, or someone you know, might be interested, please contact Jodie.

Art Classes are up and running! *Acrylics Too* will begin on April 8th. This class will build upon the basic acrylics skills learned in *Intro to Acrylics*, but all are welcome. The classes are free, open to all ages 8 through adult, and all materials will be provided. Participants are encouraged to wear clothing they will be comfortable painting in. The class will meet on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. for 4 weeks. Seating is limited, so sign-up is required. Watch the Family Ministries' bulletin board for information on classes.



And finally, we will soon be starting a trial session of a walk/run club. This group will be free, and is open to all ages 8 through adult. During the group meetings, we will go through some very basic stretch, strength, and balance exercises, and then go for short walks or runs. Each person will work at their own pace and fitness level.

For more information on any Family Ministries programming, volunteer opportunities, and more, see the Family Ministries' bulletin board or contact Jodie Freeman.

Be rooted in the faith... and grounded in love. – John Wesley



COMING UP IN WORSHIP

Worship Arts Ministry: Notes from the Loft

by Megan Horist, Director of Worship Arts
April 2025

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Holy Week begins on April 13 this year, which is Palm Sunday. Palm Branches will be available to all in worship, and we will have Bells of Glory, hymns, and worship songs to celebrate. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday is a reflective worship with communion at one large table, Taizé music, instruments and singers. Good Friday will be a Tenebrae (Latin for darkness) service where we extinguish candles and remember Jesus' last moments on earth. Chancel choir will provide the music. Easter Sunday will be a huge celebration with Chancel Choir, Bells of Glory, Brass and Timpani. Join us to celebrate the Risen Christ!

ONLINE WORSHIP

All of the worship services at the Dunes are live-streamed to our YouTube channel (Dunes Church Grand Haven). Join us online for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. (we go live at 9:25 a.m.). Can't make it on time? No problem, all services are available in full at the conclusion of the live stream.

YOU'RE INVITED

Join us this spring for Chancel Choir on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., for Bells on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. or come to our Guitar Club, 'Strings and Things' on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. I Hope to see you there!

~Megan

- APRIL 06** Communion Sunday
Chancel Choir
in worship
- APRIL 13** Palm Sunday
Bells of Glory
in worship
Palms available
- APRIL 17** **Maundy Thursday**
Worship at 7:00 p.m.
Communion and
Taizé music
- APRIL 18** **Good Friday**
Worship at 7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir
in worship
- APRIL 20** Easter Sunday
CHANCEL CHOIR, BELLS OF GLORY, & BRASS & TIMPANI
from Northern Lights
Drum and Bugle



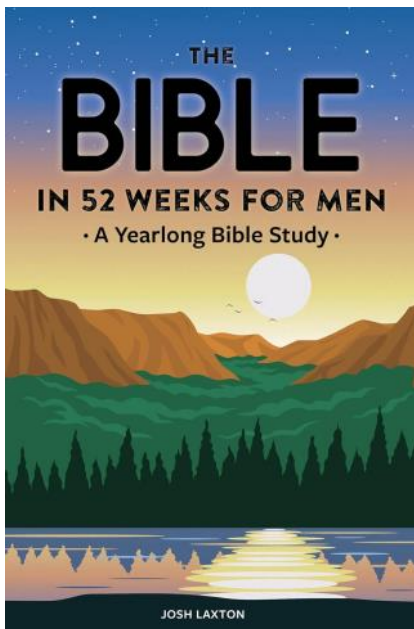
Grow in Faith

April Classes and Discussion Groups for Adults

Faith Linked Weekly Discussion Group

Sundays, 10:45 a.m., Ryder Lounge (main floor), Gail Smart, facilitator

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

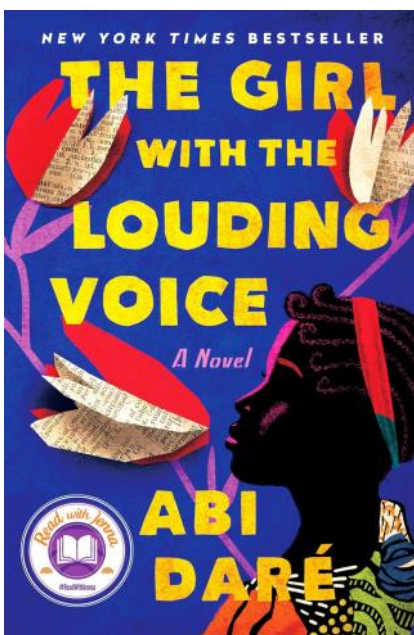


“The Bible in 52 Weeks for Men” Reading Group

Sundays, 10:45 a.m., Room 13/14 (lower level)

Rich Cole, facilitator

This group meets weekly to discuss reading guides and exercises that walk through each part of the Scripture. All are welcome. Attend as you are able. Books are provided.



Fourth Monday Reading Group

“The Girl with the Louding Voice” by Abi Daré

April 28, 1:30 p.m., Panera Bread, Grand Haven

Gayle Cox, facilitator

This group meets on the 4th Monday of each month at Panera in Grand Haven. To participate, get a copy of the book, read it, and join in the discussion.

“The unforgettable, inspiring story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so that she can find her “louding voice” and speak up for herself.”

Book images and summaries: Amazon.com

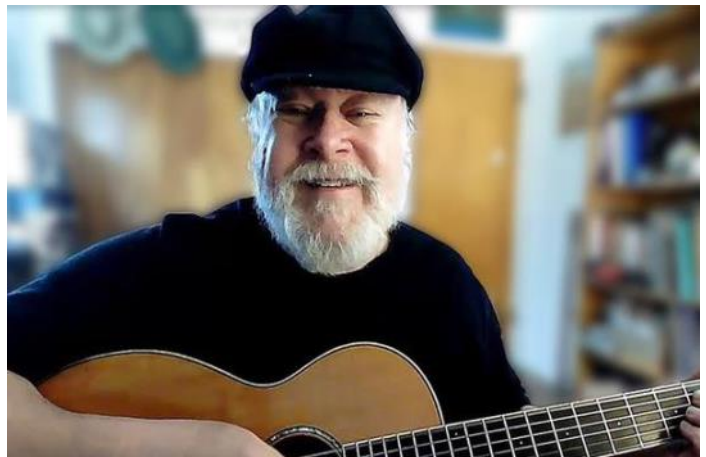
Inquirers' Class**Sunday, April 27****6:00 p.m.**

Do you have an interest in learning more about Church of the Dunes? Are you interested in becoming a member of the church? Inquirers' class is the perfect opportunity to learn more about Church of the Dunes and prepare for membership. New members will be received during a service in the following weeks. While new members are a blessing, participants are not obligated to join. The next inquirers class will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. We are hoping to receive new members and celebrate baptisms on Sunday, May 4. Contact the office to sign up or for more information.

LIVE, LAUGH, LISTEN**Upcoming Dunes Concert Series: Joel Mabus***Church of the Dunes*

This free concert will feature Joel Mabus, a fixture in the American folk music scene; recording and touring the United States since 1978. Joel is known for his warm voice, sly humor, and top notch musicianship. The concert will take place in the sanctuary of Church of the Dunes at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Seating is general admission.

These free concerts are made possible by an ongoing contribution.



YOU COULD SEE YOUR EVENT: HERE!**Church of the Dunes Communications Office**

Does your group or committee host events, meetings, or activities that may be of interest to members of the congregation? If so, the Dunes Digest (Church of the Dunes' monthly newsletter) is a great opportunity to publicize these events. Submissions for the Dunes Digest are due by the 15th of the month, for the upcoming month's publication. For questions or submission information, please contact the Communications Lead.