

Dunes Digest



PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

On the March Through Lent

Rev. Lou Grettenberger, Pastor

And here we go... Lent has begun.

The bulk of the Lenten journey will happen during the month of March. What a juxtaposition: the season of spring and our annual march to the cross. We are following Jesus and his disciples on the road to Jerusalem. The road of Lent is strewn with metaphors that help us grasp the mysteries of our Savior. We will be challenged to leave our comfort zone with Abram as our tour guide - a man called by God to gather up his family and his things in order to set out on a spiritual adventure. We will stop at Jacob's well—reminding us that Jesus is the source of our life and a sustaining well that will never run dry. We will be reminded that Jesus is the light that God sent for the darkest corners of our lives and our world. We will hear God's questions to the prophet Ezekiel, such as, "Can these bones live?" These questions will be uttered with the accompanying assurance that God's life-giving breath is more powerful than death.

All of this will ready us for the walk of Holy Week that ends in Jesus' death. And then, comes the beauty of the Easter message that announces Christ's resurrection, and invites us to remain hopeful in and because of Him.

In a world where comfort for many is fleeting, where people thirst for love, where darkness seems to prevail, we have questions. Can these bones live? Can God's good news prevail? We, the people of the United Methodist Church of the Dunes, tenaciously hold on to hope, tirelessly work to share the good news, and try to bring joy to the broken-hearted. We shall, by the grace and the powerful love of God, overcome!

Peace,
Pastor Lou



Remembrance

Katherine Stahl died on January 8, 2026.

Bill Kelly died on February 14, 2026.

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:

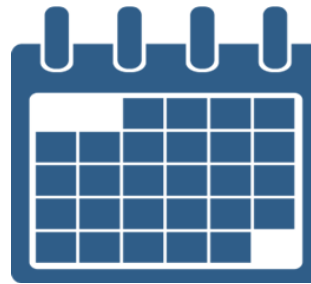
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Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, March 1 - Stop the Bleed Training

Social Hall (lower level), 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 8 - Grandparenting in Faith Page 6

Church Sanctuary (main floor), 3:00 p.m.

Monday, March 9 - Grief Support Group

Ryder Lounge (main floor), 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 12 - Craft Circle Meeting Page 3

Ryder Lounge (main floor), 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 14 - Day at the Museum Page 4

Meet at Church of the Dunes, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, March 15 - Sunday Afternoon Book Group .. Page 5

Ryder Lounge (main floor), 3:00 p.m.

Monday, March 16 - Caregivers Support Group

Ryder Lounge (main floor), 1:00 p.m.

Monday, March 16 - Dunesmen Meal and Meeting

Wiltse Center (main floor), 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 19 - Free Pickleball Clinic Page 4

Wiltse Center (main floor), 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 19 - Ironwood Concert Page 4

Church Sanctuary (main floor), 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 21 - ‘Mom to Mom’ Sale Page 3

Wiltse Center (main floor), 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 22 - 7 Last Words of Christ Play Page 6

Church Sanctuary (main floor), 2:00 p.m.

Monday, March 23 - 4th Monday Reading Group Page 5

Panera Bread (Grand Haven), 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday Worship Page 4



20 SOMETHINGS

Day at the Grand Rapids Public Museum

Madelyn Steinbeck, 20 Somethings

The 20 Somethings are traveling to Grand Rapids on Saturday, March 14 for a trip to the Grand Rapids Public Museum! The group will meet at Church of the Dunes at 9:15 a.m. and will be driven to the museum. The group will return by 3:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$10, which includes transportation, museum admission, and a sack lunch, and can be paid to Madelyn Steinbeck. A sign-up sheet is available on the Communications bulletin board. Bring a friend!



CRAFT CIRCLE

What is “Jesus the Star Child”?

Ann Antaya, Craft Circle

Craft Circle will meet on Thursday, March 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ryder Lounge (main floor). Guest speaker Jodie Freeman, Director of Family Ministries, will present an overview of “Jesus the Star Child: an Immersive Art Experience”, a multi-day Christmas event coming up this December. Preparations for “Jesus the Star Child” began last year. There are going to be many opportunities for Craft Circle to help prepare for this spectacular event!

GOOD THINGS ON THE WAY

How is Lent Going?

Jodie Freeman, Director of Family Ministries

This Lent, our Sunday school friends are once again taking the challenge of finding one thing to give up, and one thing to add in to their life. Our recent curriculum was focused on the importance of community, and while we can agree that some good can come from being connected through social media, we know that too much social media usage is not good. We are hoping that you might consider joining us in spending less time with technology and more time with others. Nothing is better than spending time together with our phones on silent and tucked away in our pockets.

This month, Rise & Shine playgroup is planning a playdate gathering and ‘mom to mom’ sale in the Wiltse Center on Saturday, March 21. And finally, while December may seem like a long time away, it will be here before we know it! Mark your calendars for “Jesus the Star Child”: December 2-5 for the main event, and December 11 for the cast/volunteer appreciation party.

family+ministries



Worship Arts Ministry: Notes from the Loft

By Megan Horist, Director of Worship Arts

March 2025

LENT CONTINUES

Lent is a season to grow in spiritual life and as disciples of Jesus Christ. It is a journey. There are many legs to this journey that we will explore together. What does it mean to be followers of Jesus? That we will be **tested, sent, sustained, enlightened, and enlivened**. The Holy Spirit in some way drives all of these in no particular order. During Lent, we will examine the challenges and blessings these interactions with God provide us.

DUNES CONCERT SERIES: IRONWOOD

Join us **Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.** for a concert by Michigan duo "Ironwood". With a love for acoustic music, Ironwood is steeped in Celtic and American folk influences. Ironwood has a wide range of original tunes on fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and bass. We hope you'll join us for an evening of music and celebration.

YOU'RE INVITED: CELEBRATION CHOIR

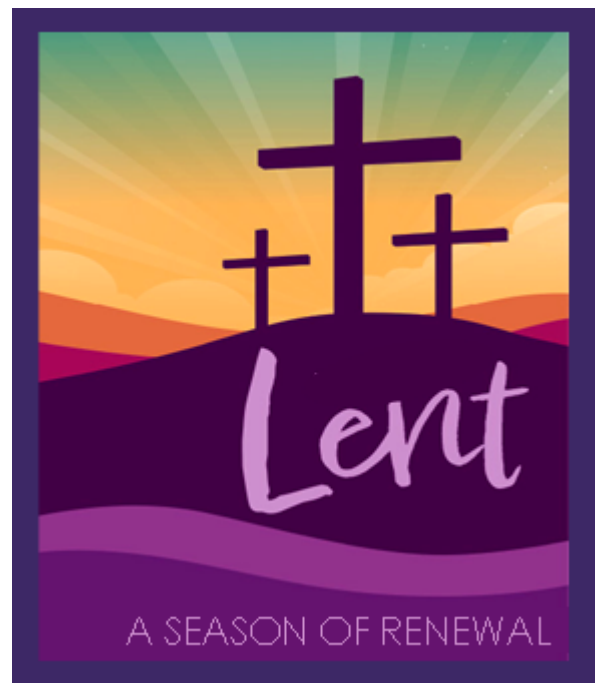
March 29 is the fifth Sunday in March, and the Celebration Choir will be singing. You're invited! This also happens to be Palm Sunday, so the music will be fun! If you would like to join Celebration Choir this month, please join us for two rehearsals Wednesdays **March 18 and March 25 at 7:30 p.m.** in the choir loft.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: HOLY WEEK

Holy week begins on Palm Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 2, is a reflective worship service with communion and Taizé music featuring instruments and singers. Good Friday, April 3, will be a Tenebrae (darkness) service where candles are extinguished to remember Jesus' last moments on Earth. Easter Sunday will be a celebration with Chancel Choir, Bells of Glory, Brass, and Timpani. Join us in celebrating the Risen Christ together!

COMING UP IN WORSHIP

- MARCH 01 -** LENT 2
Communion Sunday
CHANCEL CHOIR
in worship
- MARCH 08 -** LENT 3
BELLS OF GLORY
in worship
- MARCH 15 -** LENT 4
CHANCEL CHOIR
in worship
- MARCH 22 -** LENT 5
GUITAR CLUB
in worship
Mission Moment:
Habitat for Humanity
- MARCH 29 -** LENT 6 - Palm Sunday
CELEBRATION CHOIR
in worship



Grow in Faith

March Book Discussion Groups for Adults

(includes both religious and secular reads)

“The Bible in 52 Weeks for Men” by Josh Laxton

Fridays, 8:30 a.m.

Kenzie’s Be Cafe, Grand Haven

Facilitator: Rich Cole

“Applying the wisdom of the Bible to your life is an integral part of being Christian, but it’s not always easy to find the time for Bible study.” No sign-up required. Participants should get their own copy of the book. All men are welcome.

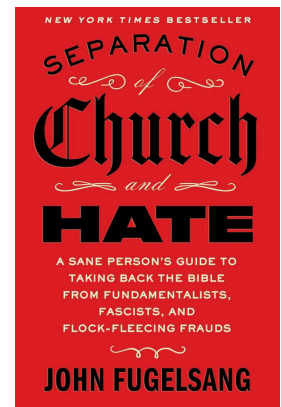
“Separation of Church and Hate” by John Fugelsang

Sundays, 10:45 a.m.

Ryder Lounge (main floor)

Facilitator: Gail Smart

“The extremists who weaponize the Bible for earthly power aren’t actually on the side of Jesus—and historically they never have been. How do we fight back against those acting—literally—in bad faith?” There is no sign-up required. Participants should get their own copy of the book. This study will take place of Faith Linked’s usual Sunday discussion meetings.



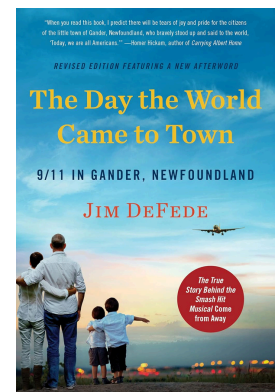
“The Day the World Came to Town” by Jim DeFede

Sunday, March 15, 3:00 p.m.

Ryder Lounge (main floor)

Facilitator: Jill Miller

“When 38 jetliners bound for the United States were forced to land at Gander International Airport in Canada by the closing of U.S. airspace on September 11, the population of this small town on Newfoundland Island swelled from 10,300 to nearly 17,000.” No sign-up required, just get a copy of the book and join the discussion.



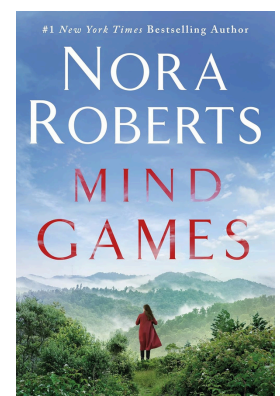
“Mind Games” by Nora Roberts

Monday, March 23, 1:30 p.m.

Panera Bread, Grand Haven

Facilitator: Gayle Cox

“It seems that life can’t get any better. However, it hasn’t been easy getting here. Thea carries the burden of a special ability, one she shares with her Grammie. They can see into people’s minds and souls. Sometimes, they can even see the future.” There is no sign-up required. Participants should get their own copy of the book. To participate, just read the book and join in on the discussion.



MARCH-ING AHEAD

Spring Successes and Calendar Updates*Susan Thorpe, Finishing Well*

Hello Finishing Well ambassadors! How do you see yourself in that roll of ambassador? To be an ambassador is an active term of “doing, being or sharing” your love of God and being an example to others of how to ‘Finish Well’ in this life. We all want to finish well, right? So go forth ambassadors!

Our **potluck on Sunday, February 15 was a success!** We began labeling each dish that was brought with its name and identifying allergens. This is our effort to help make potlucks more friendly to those with dietary restrictions or allergies. We want everyone to feel comfortable to join us in a meal and fellowship. For future potlucks we suggest inviting those with specific dietary needs to bring their favorite dish that meets their needs. This way, they can ensure they are able to eat, and that others can taste how good gluten-free, dairy-free, or vegan dishes can be! Or for those that are no longer cooking, or are not up to preparing a dish for four+ people, I suggest that something easy like bringing a couple sub sandwiches, or chips and salsa, or a bag of already prepared salad. These are options so that they can participate in potluck fellowship.

Dr. Ray Francis, grandfather, professor, and pastor of a small rural church in Midland, will share his wisdom on **‘Grandparenting in Faith’ and spiritual grandparenting on Sunday, March 8 at 3:00 p.m.** Spiritual grandparenting is a term that holds profound significance for the present and future generations of Christians. It refers to the vital role that older, more spiritually mature individuals-who may or may not be biological grandparents-play in the faith development of communities. This role extends far beyond mere familial ties, encompassing mentorship, prayer support, scriptural teaching, and living examples of godly faith. Spiritual grandparenting fills a unique and essential gap in Christian communities, nurturing the faith of the younger generation and ensuring that the legacy of faith is passed down from one generation to the next. This is a presentation that should not be missed! It will be free and held in the church sanctuary (main floor). It is also open to the public.

On **March 22 at 2:00 p.m. the Master Arts Traveling Theatre Troupe** will return to Church of the Dunes to **perform “The Seven Last Words of Christ”**. This play will help us to usher in the Easter season. These professional actors perform a moving tale without scenery or costumes. The performance is free, with the actors only accepting a free-will offering.

Finally, a report on our fitness classes. Greater Balance has been a great addition to our roster. This class meets on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Come and check this out, no sign-up required. A \$1 donation is appreciated per class, but the first class is free. At the same day and time upstairs in the Wiltse Center is the circuit training class. On Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. line dancing meets in the Social Hall with fun music and a great instructor. And don’t forget: chair yoga classes on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. Again, donation only.

Happy Easter season to everyone!



GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Funds and Giving Updates

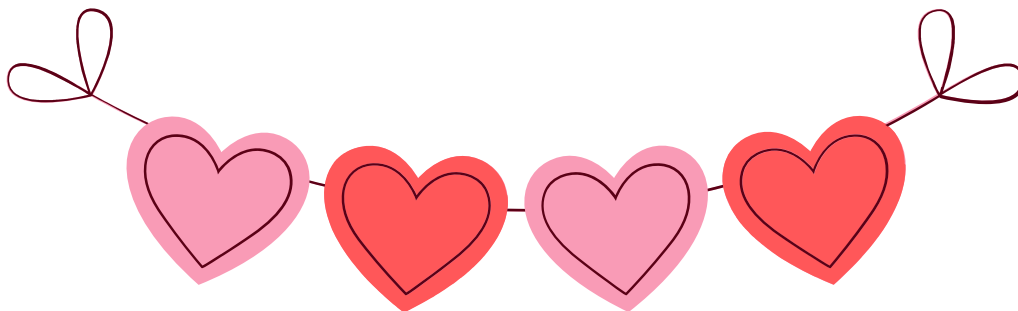
Robert Mann, Planned Giving and Memorial Fund Committee

Having just completed the year-end report for the church, it is a good time to reflect on progress and activities last year, and to look forward to furthering God's work in our church and community.

Endowment Fund income has been used to good effect, supporting several new creative ministries, the Dunes Music Education Fund, and ongoing support of new staff responsibilities focused on community engagement. Some of these are three-year commitments, helping provide impetus to these exciting new initiatives. The Memorial Fund has supported several projects, providing funds to missions, the nursery, trustees, and is engaged in studies of additional projects this year. The fund has also provided two additional education grants, a great example of a generous memorial gift being put to use. Our Dunes Concert Series, supported by the EMC Memorial Music Fund, continues to provide a variety of free concerts, including our first outdoor concert. A generous and ongoing memorial gift honoring one of our members supports these enjoyable and well-received concerts.

In addition to the Endowment and Memorial Funds, we have established a Current Use Flexible Fund allowing members and friends to provide gifts for a broad range of projects with more immediate impact from an unrestricted fund. The Endowment and Memorial Funds will remain as they are, enabling perpetual gifts via endowed funds and memorial gifts honoring loved ones who have passed away. Those wishing to give to the new flexible fund are asked to give guidance on designation and use, and a timeframe over which the gift is to provide support. If you have questions on this or any other items, please contact me via the church office, and I am happy to help.

Your ongoing support to our church is appreciated and gratefully received. **Great is Thy Faithfulness.**



RESPONSES FROM THE CONGREGATION

Ways We Will Love Boldly

- Protesting peacefully to support democracy and immigrant friends
- Speaking only kind words
- Calling a high school friend
- Being more engaging
- Continuing to walk humbly
- Praying for enemies
- Serving the poor
- Reaching out to those who are lonely
- Helping even if it scares us
- Knowing that God comes first
- Loving the unlovable
- Sharing God's love in all situations
- Forgiving
- Helping others
- Compromising more