

# Dunes Digest



## FROM THE PASTOR

### Staying Out Loud: Living for Jesus

Rev. Lou Grettenberger, Pastor

As we enter PRIDE month, I am reminded of some thoughts I shared with you following the Michigan United Methodist Church's decision to take a more welcoming posture to LGBTQIA folks four years ago. Since then, the UMC worldwide has affirmed that, too. The UMC has come a long way in the last two years toward living out that commitment. We are a work in progress, but we are trying.

Then and now, I draw from a daily e-devotional from "The Center for Action and Contemplation," by Brian McLaren. Brian is known for traversing the long road from evangelical conservatism to a profound, active spiritual voice that cannot be easily labeled or ignored. His book, *Generous Orthodoxy*, helped me color a bit outside the lines of traditional theology, and led me to a deeper relationship with God and a journey full of joy and complexity. Brian writes:

"There are more than two options,' I thought. 'I don't have to choose between staying Christian compliantly or leaving Christianity defiantly. I can stay defiantly, ... I can intentionally, consciously, resolutely refuse to leave . . . and with equal intention and resolution, I can refuse to comply with the status quo. I can occupy Christianity with a different way of being Christian.' When I say stay defiantly, I don't mean ungraciously ... radiate such gentleness and inner calm that accusations of being ungracious simply don't stick."

Brian refers to this approach as "staying out loud." He emphasizes that this is a means by which to live graciously and honestly into an unhypocritical preferred future for the church. Brian is not a United Methodist, but I believe that the UMC generally is now working to be a more loving and a more inclusive church at all levels. We now stand at as a denomination that is staying Christian, but staying defiantly—lovingly defiant. We have a beautiful church full of Jesus-loving, Jesus-following Christians who have a deep desire to draw people to Jesus Christ and the life he offers us. We find Jesus in our mutual missional outreach, study, worship, and ministry. I believe that our congregation has become more beautiful as we have lived into this new era. McLaren concludes that:

"I can no longer put a naïve trust in the structures of the Christian religion, seeing and knowing what I see and know now. But instead of rejecting my religious community, I remain paradoxically present to it, neither minimizing its faults nor hating it for its faults. . . ."

McLaren's instruction is to figure out how to live forward into the life to which Jesus calls us, while acknowledging that the church, because of its human component, is flawed. The church, our church, can become better by loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously. Let's live out loud for Jesus and for all God's children.

#### ***Dunes Church Hospitality Statement:***

*"The United Methodist Church of the Dunes aspires to love as Jesus loved. We open our hearts, minds, and doors to all. This congregation invites persons of all races, sexual orientations and gender identities, ages, abilities, and socio-economic status to participate fully in all aspects of the Christian life."*

### Remembrance

Pat Blanchard died on April 30, 2026. Please keep her loved ones your prayers.

Charles Miller died on May 3, 2026. Please keep his loved ones 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

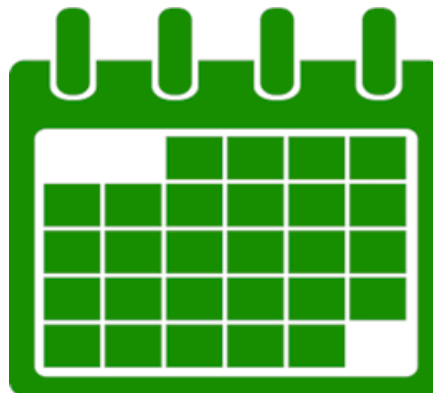
**Email:** office@umcdunes.org

### United Methodist Church of the Dunes

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### Important June Dates for Your Calendar

- Sunday, June 7 - Potluck ..... Page 7**  
Wiltse Center (main floor), 10:45 a.m.
- Monday, June 8 - Grief Support Group**  
Ryder Lounge (main floor), 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 13 - Beach Night ..... Page 3**  
Grand Haven State Park, 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 15 - Caregivers Support Group**  
Ryder Lounge (main floor), 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 15 - Dunesmen Meal and Meeting**  
Wiltse Center (main floor), 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 20 - Rise & Shine Playgroup**  
Pottawatomie Park (Grand Haven), 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 20 - Silent March ..... Page 3**  
Central Park (Grand Haven), 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, June 21 - Father's Day**
- Sunday, June 21 - Whitecaps Game ..... Page 8**  
LMCU Ballpark (Grand Rapids), 2:00 p.m.



If there is an injury or incident that happens at Church of the Dunes, you must use an incident form. Incident forms are available outside of the church office. Once the form is filled out, it can be left with the office or slid under the office door if outside of church office hours.

## SILENCE THE VIOLENCE MARCH THEME

### Love Our Kids, Lock Your Guns

*Val Martin, Gun Safety and Violence Prevention Task Force*

When gun violence erupts, there is always trauma. The lives of children are impacted forever. The Church of the Dunes Gun Safety and Violence Prevention Task Force, in collaboration with St. John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven, has been working to place safety information, safe bags, and gun locks in the hands of gun owners. Locking guns in the presence of children is the law in Michigan. To help spread the word, this year's theme for the annual silent march in Grand Haven is "Love Our Kids, Lock Your Guns."

Join us for a silent march on Saturday, June 20. To participate in the march, gather at Central Park in Grand Haven prior to 11:00 a.m. At 11:00 a.m., marchers will silently walk down Washington Avenue towards Harbor Drive and then back up Washington Avenue back to St. John's Episcopal Church. The entire march takes place in silence. Marchers are asked to wear black or orange. Signs displaying this year's theme will be provided. Following the march, participants will gather at St. John's Episcopal Church (Timberlake Hall) in Grand Haven, where the soul box display will be available for viewing. The Tri-Cities Community Singers will perform a short program and refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you all at this event.



## BEACH NIGHT AT GRAND HAVEN STATE PARK

### Saturday, June 13 at 6:00 PM

After last year's successful beach night, our 20 Somethings group wanted to bring the event back this year with one change: they wanted to invite everyone at the church to join them. So join your Church of the Dunes family and 20 Somethings for a beach night! Meet at Grand Haven State Park beach (between the area 5 and area 6 markers) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 13. There will be outdoor games available to play, but all accessibility levels are welcome. There is no sign-up required. See Madelyn Steinbeck for information.

There will be another beach night opportunity on Saturday, July 11. Although these beach nights will be spearheaded by our 20 Somethings group, all ages are welcome!

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

### Muffins for Mom Fundraiser Success

*Ruth Woodward, United Women in Faith*

Thank you to everyone who baked and supplied muffins for the Muffins for Mom fundraiser on Mother's Day, May 10. Thanks to those who purchased muffins or donated, we were able to raise \$573 for the United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids.



# Grow in Faith

## June Book Discussion Groups for Adults

(includes both religious and secular reads)

### Faith Linked Discussion Group

Sundays, 10:45 a.m.

Ryder Lounge (main floor)

Facilitator: Gail Smart

The Faith Linked discussion group discusses current events from a faith-focused perspective. The group is currently reading *Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang. No sign-up required.

Faith  
Linked

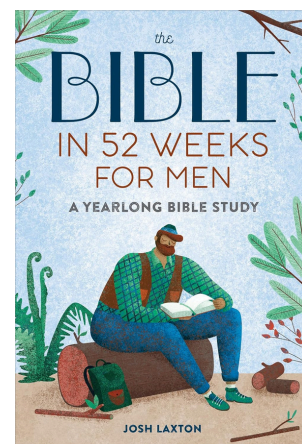
### “The Bible in 52 Weeks for Men” by Josh Laxton

Fridays, 8:30 a.m.

Conference Room (lower level)

Facilitator: Rich Cole

“Contemplate God’s teachings with discussions that reflect on topics like relationships, family, work, and health.” There is no sign-up required. Reach out to the facilitator for book information. This group will now meet in the conference room (lower level) here at church, as they have outgrown their previous meeting space at Kenzie’s Be Cafe.



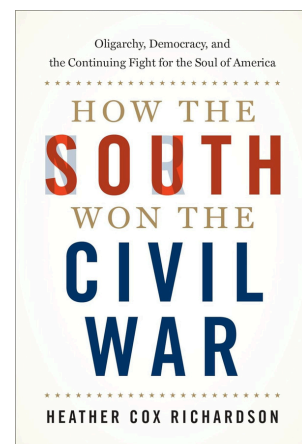
### “How the South Won the Civil War” by Heather Cox Richardson

Monday, June 7, 3:00 p.m.

Ryder Lounge (main floor)

Facilitator: Jill Miller

“How the South Won the Civil War traces the story of the American paradox, the competing claims of equality and subordination woven into the nation’s fabric and identity. Debunking the myth that the Civil War released the nation from the grip of oligarchy, expunging the sins of the Founding, it reveals how and why the Old South not only survived in the West, but thrived.” To participate, get a copy of the book, read it, and join in on the discussion.



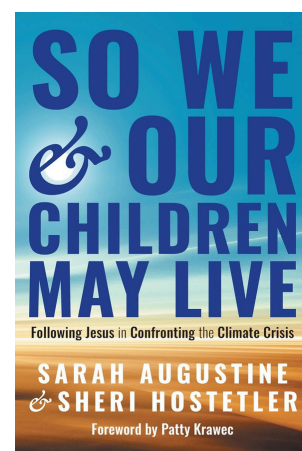
### “So We & Our Children May Live” by Sarah Augustine & Sheri Hosteller

Monday, June 22, 1:30 p.m.

Panera Bread (Grand Haven)

Facilitator: Gayle Cox

“Climate change is just a symptom of a larger ecological crisis. This book offers hope for a better future alongside concrete actions for joining with Indigenous Peoples to protect life and negotiate with decision-makers for sustainable change that follows Jesus.” To participate in the **fourth Monday reading group**, get your own copy of the book, read it, and join in on the discussion. All who have read the book are welcome.





## Worship Arts Ministry: Notes from the Loft

By Megan Horist, Director of Worship Arts

June 2026

### THANK YOU!

To all the volunteers that help make worship so beautiful! Chancel Choir, Bells of Glory, Strings and Things guitar club, liturgists, instrumentalists, vocalists, ushers, tech team, banner creators, communion helpers, and many more. Thanks for all you do to make worship special at the Church of the Dunes!

### WORSHIP APPRECIATION PARTY

Our annual worship appreciation party will be Wednesday, June 3 at 6:00 p.m. If you have served in worship this year, you're invited! A main dish and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and rsvp to Megan by Monday, June 1.

### SUMMER IS HERE (FINALLY)

While all of our regular groups take a well-deserved break, there are still many special musical things happening this summer! Please check out our June schedule to find out what's happening in worship!

### ONLINE WORSHIP—SAY HELLO!

We would love to get to know you! If you're joining us online for worship, please send an email to [here@umcdunes.org](mailto:here@umcdunes.org). This is a great way to let us know of prayer requests or if you have any comments regarding our online service. All worship services at the Dunes are livestreamed on our YouTube channel (Dunes Church Grand Haven). Join us online for worship on Sundays at 9:20 a.m. All services are available in full at the conclusion of the livestream.

Hope to see you soon in person or online!

Megan

## COMING UP IN WORSHIP

- JUNE 07 - CHANCEL CHOIR**  
in worship for the final Sunday of the season
- JUNE 14 - GUITAR CLUB**  
in worship for the final Sunday of the season
- JUNE 21 - DUNES TREBLE ENSEMBLE**  
in worship  
Father's Day
- JUNE 28 - Special Music - TBD**  
**Special Guest Rev. Faith Fowler**  
Mission Moment:  
**Cass Community Social Services**
- JULY 5 - DUNES BASS CLEF ENSEMBLE**  
in worship



## MISSION U REGISTRATION IS OPEN

### United Women in Faith's Mission u Michigan Annual Gathering

*Sara Wolfsen, Dean of Mission u of Michigan*

Interested in deepening your faith? Gaining experience interpreting Scripture? Gathering in community to laugh, learn, and love? Then Mission u is for you! Join for this year's gathering at Mt. Pleasant First United Methodist Church from July 16 to 18. Mission u is an annual event sponsored by United Women in Faith. This year's theme is *Experiencing Emmanuel*. Together, we will take a step back and a closer look at the various ways we see Emmanuel within and around biblical stories. What can it look like to walk with God as people who face adversity, issues of justice, and a heritage of relational and spiritual connections? This study encourages participants to seek out and name the experiences of Emmanuel from biblical times to our present day as we look toward our future in faith. The adult study will be led by Deaconess Anne Hillman PhD, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at Central United Methodist Church in Detroit. Children and youth attend FREE with an adult and will enjoy age-appropriate programming led by qualified Michigan pastors and staff. Registration is \$80 when you register by June 15, or \$90 if you register after June 15 by July 10. Please arrange your own lodging accommodations. For more information or to register, visit <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/>.



## FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATES

### Curriculum Continues During Summer

*Jodie Freeman, Director of Family Ministries*

Summer is here and we're ready to do big things! Our Nursery friends are continuing to grow and learn. They will be busy during the month of June creating new artwork for all to enjoy. Our Sunday school friends will be continuing their Big Faith curriculum and learning about the importance of listening to others. We can build stronger community and best **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously** when we listen carefully first.

The Jesus the Star Child sign-up event was very successful! It's inspiring and encouraging to see so many people getting involved and helping. If you missed the sign-up day, no worries. Please reach out to Jodie Freeman. The group heading this event will find you tasks that are fun and comfortable for all participation and ability levels. On Thursday, June 11, all of the artists creating pieces for Jesus the Star Child will be gathering on the outdoor patio (lower level) from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. for an artist appreciation and inspiration night, for them to connect with each other, eat good snacks, and talk about their progress.

Our Wednesday night watercolor class has been going great. The class will be taking a break for the summer and resume in the early fall. If this sounds interesting, more information will be available during Passport to Ministry Sunday in September. Finally, the Just Dune It circuit fitness class will also be pausing for the summer. Watch for fun new options coming in the fall.

## FINISHING WELL UPDATES

### Sun, Summer Plans, and Sunday Volunteering

Susan Thorpe, *Finishing Well*

Hello Finishing Well ambassadors! A big welcome back to our snowbirds. You may be more tanned than we are, but we've missed you! Summer is here and there's so much to enjoy in Michigan. Let's be grateful for our summers that offer the sun, the water, and the outdoors. Enjoy as much as you are able because aging into your 70's, 80's 90's, and beyond becomes a time of redirection, reinvention, rejuvenation, rewiring, and renewal. *Spend a moment to decide what your summer will become.*



Also: stop by the newly updated Finishing Well bulletin board in the cry room in the sanctuary. Thank you Monica Bierl for all your artistry!

Save these Dates:

- **June 7:** Potluck after worship. Bring a dish to pass that feeds 4+. If your dish requires a lid, please use a foil lid. Drop off your dish at the kitchen door prior to worship. Bring your table setting (plate and silverware); we supply the beverages. If you are not into cooking, you can bring a bag salad, box of cookies, or rolls and butter. We can put pre-prepared or store-bought items on serving plates. You are also welcome to bring a sack lunch from home.
- **June 21:** Whitecaps Game. Play Ball!
- **June 28:** Jesus the Star Child volunteer sign-ups after worship in the Wiltse Center (main floor).
- **October 4:** 90-Somethings Birthday Party.
- **October 11:** Grand Lady Riverboat Cruise. Enjoy the autumn colors floating down the river. This year, we will have wheelchairs available to get you on or off the boat as the ramp is a little steep. This event is FREE this year compliments of Finishing Well. Stay tuned for more information.

There are ongoing classes to help with balance, wellness, and fun! Chair yoga will continue through the summer. This class has amazing instructors that lead you through gentle stretching in an accessible seating or standing position. Chair yoga is great for all ages and asks only for a \$1 donation per class. Just dress comfortably and enjoy relaxation and rejuvenation. Classes are held in the Social Hall (lower level) on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. If you need more emphasis on your balance, try the greater balance class on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall (lower level). Accessible parking is available in the lower level parking lot. We are currently seeking an alternate instructor for this class on an as needed basis. If interested, contact Susan Thorpe. If you enjoy dancing and music, consider trying line dancing classes! Beginners and seasoned dancers alike are invited to glide and stomp with our wonderful instructor, Diane Hogue. This class has become a hit in the last year! A \$1 donation per class is appreciated.

Still looking for ways to get involved on Sundays?

- Volunteer at the welcome desk. This is a seated position, with 30 minutes of commitment. You will welcome people as they enter church. Choose a Sunday and sign up at the welcome desk.
- Volunteer to be a greeter. This is a standing position with 30 minutes of commitment. Hold the door open, and wear a smile and comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Choose your Sunday and sign up at the Welcome Desk.
- Volunteer to be an usher. This is a standing/walking position and training is available. See Gary Gillan or Sam Easterly for more information and to find a Sunday to sign up.
- Volunteer to be a coffee fellowship time host. This is a standing position for about one hour. You get to greet each person and monitor the coffee pots when they get low. See the sign-up sheets on the beverage table on Sunday. See Carla Pearce, Kitchen Coordinator, for more information.

## JOIN CRAFT CIRCLE'S EFFORTS

**Thursday, June 11 at 9:30 AM**

*Ann Antaya, Craft Circle*

Craft Circle needs crafters! Anyone can drop in to help make marketplace items for December's **Jesus the Star Child** event. Our next Craft Circle meeting is Thursday, June 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Bible Study Room (lower level). No crafting experience necessary! There are tasks for all skill levels. Supplies are provided.



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

**Updates on Invasive Plant Work in Our Dunes**

*Blaire and Jill Miller*

You may not realize that our dune area is a perfect environment for some invasive plants, especially one known as Garlic Mustard. This is a particularly aggressive invasive plant that the Ottawa Parks system fights continually at many of their sites. Given that we have a daughter who did her biology graduate work on multiple invasive species, we are well-versed on the problems that they create and on their identification. Because of this, we've spent the last few springs trying to keep the Garlic Mustard from getting a strong foothold on our church property. It is regularly found around much of our main parking lot. Just this April, we had a new crop of Garlic Mustard growing just above the back courtyard, but more recently, a large quantity was discovered around our lower parking lot. Fortunately, it is one of the easiest weeds to pull from our sandy soils. Garlic Mustard, however, can never be put into a compost pit or yard waste pick-up. It should always be collected in a trash bag and placed in the garbage. If you care to know more about Garlic Mustard on the property, please reach out to Blair Miller. We would like to thank the number of folks who have stepped in to help pull these many weeds this year. We've made good progress around our property, but the efforts are still continuing in upcoming months.

Also note, it was decided not to let the milkweed plants grow in our beds by the handicapped parking this year. We've not actually been managing those plots properly to really make them good feeding sites for the Monarchs. Last fall, we did try to spread and propagate the milkweed seeds around the back dunes of the church. We'll see if anything comes from that work.

*Blair Miller pulling Garlic Mustard outside of the church.*



## REMINDER: SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2:00 PM Whitecaps Baseball Game

If you purchased tickets last month to the annual Church of the Dunes Whitecaps baseball game at LMCU Ballpark, please remember the game will be at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 21. If you are interested in carpooling or in providing rides, please reach out to Dale Zurakowski or Barb Kish.