

# Unity Presbyterian Church

## Yoke Newsletter ~ October 2017

### **Church Calendar:**

<http://unitypresbyterian.net/page/calendar>

### **Prayer Concerns:**

<http://unitypresbyterian.net/prayer.php>

### **Celebrating 500 Years!**

On October 29th Unity Presbyterian Church will join with Reformed churches around the world to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. With the invention of the printing press in 1440 it became possible to provide the Holy Bible to the common people. This led many to start reading the Scripture's for themselves and begin questioning the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.

Martin Luther was a German priest and professor who questioned that authority, especially the selling of indulgences or the offering of God's forgiveness of sins for a price. On October 31st, 1517 Luther nailed a list of 95 grievances to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church. This marks the bringing of the Protestant Reformation a new way of thinking about God and God's relationship with humanity. Those who were witnessing their Christian faith as they understood it from the Bible were called Protestants. As this movement spread through Europe Luther's followers became known as Lutherans.

John Calvin, a French/Swiss theologian, refined this new way of thinking with his writings *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* into what came to be known as Reformed Theology. He and other theologians agreed with Luther's criticism of the Roman Church, but had differing opinions on Biblical interpretation. Presbyterian became a descriptive term of this new forming church that was centering around the leadership of Presbyteries, regional bodies made up of elected elders and clergy from that area.

Calvin's Reformed Theology is marked by a recognition that Christian faith needs constantly to be articulated and confessed. Presbyterians have a rich heritage of Confessions that we have used to state what the Church believes throughout history. The Reformed statements include the Scots Confession in 1560, the Heidelberg Catechism in 1563, the Second Helvetic Confession in 1566, and the Westminster Confession of Faith in 1647.

Contemporary confessions include the Theological Declaration of Barman in 1934 which was a statement addressing an emerging Nazi Germany. The Confession of 1967 addresses the social problems of that era by declaring that God's reconciliation in Jesus Christ is key to addressing those issues. In 1993 the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) adopted the Brief Statement of Faith to

summarize the churches understandings in a document suitable for liturgical use.

This month we celebrate our history of being Reformed and to give thanks for the many ways that Presbyterians have served as global witnesses to God's redemptive work in the world. We also celebrate that we are always being reformed and look forward to the ways God will continue mold us and use Presbyterians to speak truth to justice, care for the other, and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,  
Rev. Andrew Black

### **Worship Schedule**

**October 1st— 17th Sunday after Pentecost  
World Communion Sunday  
Sermon: "Still Testing" by Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by Exodus 17:1-7**

**October 8th — 18th Sunday after Pentecost  
Earth Care Service led by the Green Committee**

**October 15th — 19th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: "Impatiently Waiting" By Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by Exodus 32:1-14**

**October 22nd — 20th Sunday after Pentecost  
Children's Sabbath  
Sermon: "Who Has the Power?"  
Inspired by 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10,  
Exodus 33:12-23 & Matthew 22:15-22**

**October 29th — 21st Sunday after Pentecost  
500th Celebration of the Reformation  
Sermon: "The Word!"  
Inspired by 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 & Matthew 22:34-46**

### **Growth Giving Challenge for the Potts Food Pantry**

Can we rise to the challenge and can we do a little bit more? Last year we did an amazing job as a congregation helping stock the pantries shelves each week. Just one extra item per person per week added to the one item we already bring can make a world of difference. By just adding a few more items to your weekly shopping list and dropping them off on Sunday morning we can greatly increase the efforts to feed those of our community in need. Keep

watching the weekly bulletin insert for suggestions on the items the Food Pantry needs most.

The Food Pantry currently serves about 12 families along with several emergency need bags each month and there is an ever increasing need in our community. Imagine the difference Unity could make if it could double the number of families we assist on a regular basis. With some creative thinking and your help in 2017 we might be able to do that. The pantry not only needs donations, it needs YOU. There is a great deal of time and effort that goes into operating the food pantry each month. There is food to purchase, stock, pack, and distribute. Our current dedicated group of volunteers are amazing, but they need YOUR help. I hope each of us can spend some time discerning how they might be called to help support the Food Pantry with our time and talents. Please let Pastor Andrew, Dawn Chapman or Jan Buffington know if you are interested in doing more to help us continue to answer Christ's call to care for and love our neighbors. ~Pastor Andrew

### **Song and a Slice**

**I want to thank all members of the Kazoo Orchestra and everyone who played with us. Without Amie (the conductor), Andrea (who kept us on track), Jim Moles (our guest ding-a-ling) and the brave members of this choir this would not have happened!! There was talent galore from Colby (our youngest performer) to I'll say the very mature. Ah-now the pies which everyone will tell you were as tasty as always. It was a great evening!!**

**Written by Dr. I'm a Fraud**

**(P.S. I'm still waiting for requests for our CD)**

### **Morning Glories**

**We are continuing our Bible Study "Cloud of Witnesses" with lesson three, "In Community with the Living Word." We will meet Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at 10:30 am at the church.**



**Bring a brown bag lunch and join us!!**

**Greeting Cards: Save the front of your greeting cards as a mission/recycling project. There is a box in the back of the church where you can leave your cards.**

## VIEW FROM THE INSIDE BY CAMILLE CHURCH MOUSE

It's been very hot!! Very HOT and very DRY!!!! Remember this weather next winter!!

This has been a very busy month. "Song and a Slice" was awesome. Apparently eating six different pieces of pie at one time is not a good idea! I will say the "Song" part was varied. No more pie for me for a while!

Rally Day was fun. The choir is back and off to a great start! We have several young singers with us. There is more coming, with the Craft Fair and Yard Sale, the Chicken Noodle Dinner, and more.



Keep checking your newsletter and bulletin for upcoming activities. Come and grow with us! God's blessing and joy to all of you! Peace and love!

### Green Corner

We are now in a very hot, very dry, period of time. Record highs in September aren't making many people happy as our lawns dry out and trees and plants start to show the effects of the lack of rain. Below are some tips from the BBC that may help this year with dealing with this weather and other tips to keep in mind for the next time this happens. They will help you to save water while doing your best to save your lawn and flowers.

#### Soil, compost and mulching

- Add organic matter to soil when planting. Improving the soil's structure helps to retain moisture.
- Use a mulch on flowerbeds and around shrubs and trees in spring. This stops moisture from evaporating during dry spells.
- Add a mulch, such as gravel, to the surface of hanging baskets to trap moisture.
- Add water-retentive gel to compost in hanging baskets and containers, or use compost with water retentive gel already in it.

#### Lawn care

Lawns are fairly drought resistant compared with other plants, but they can become yellowy-brown, limp and eventually bald if the following precautions are not taken:

- cut the lawn less frequently than usual
- raise the height of lawnmower blades
- use a sprinkler on the lawn in the evening. Water lawns thoroughly to saturate the top 10cm to 15cm (4in to 6in) of soil. Check there is no hose pipe ban in the area. Avoid walking on the lawn if possible
- scarify the lawn in autumn. A build-up of thatch in the summer could prevent water from penetrating the lawn
- aerate soil with a fork to help water penetrate the roots of the grass

#### Watering

- Using the right amount of water is the most important aspect of a plant's survival in dry conditions. Bear in mind that it is not just hot weather that can cause soil to dry out, windy weather can also have a detrimental effect.

- **In dry conditions, water container plants at least once a day. Water in the evening to reduce evaporation.**
- **However, if a plant looks like it is wilting and suffering from drought in the day, then water it immediately.**
- **Try to avoid watering plant leaves in direct sunlight because they can become scorched, particularly when they have hairy foliage.**
- **If you have an automatic watering system with a timer, adjust it to take hot and dry weather into account.**
- **Move container plants into the shade if you are going away on holiday and no one is watering your plants.**

#### **Plants for dry conditions**

**If you have a dry garden, choose plants that are suited to dry conditions. These often have grey or silver foliage, such as lavender and santolina, or thin foliage to reduce water loss through the leaves.**

#### **Be safe in the sun**

**It's not only plants that can start to flag in dry weather, if you are working in the garden in hot conditions, it is important to take the following precautions:**

- **wear suntan lotion or sun block**
- **work in the shade if possible, out of direct sunlight**
- **wear a hat or headscarf**
- **take regular breaks and have frequent non-alcoholic drinks**



Mary Eleanor Strecker, age 94, passed away September 15, 2017, at Heartland Health Care Center in Whitehall, MI, with her husband & family at her bedside following a 15 year bout with Alzheimer's Disease. She was born in Montague, MI, to Mabel (Staff) Stewart & William Rufus Stewart on June 21, 1923. She graduated from Montague High School in 1941 & then Hackley Hospital School of Nursing in 1945. Following her RN degree, she worked as a staff nurse at Illinois Research (University of Illinois) Hospital in Chicago. Mary married William Louis Strecker from Paris, IL, on June 27, 1946, in Montague, MI. They lived in Chicago, IL, until her husband finished his education in 1949. Then, they moved to Terre Haute, IN, where her husband practiced medicine for 50 years. For a few years, she worked in his medical practice--but her primary effort was in raising her 7 children. Mary was devoted to their care & welfare, and was a wonderful mother. She handled the care alone of her first 4 children while her husband was in Korea for a year.

Mary was active in community affairs in Terre Haute, attending all Vigo County School Board meetings and local political Cracker Barrel Sessions. She was a founding member of HELP (Housewives' Effort for Local Progress) and a member of the Board of Directors of the Terre Haute Day Nursery which had been established for low income & single mothers. She was active in Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church, serving as a Deacon and focusing primarily on the Mother's Resource Program that assisted single mothers. Mary was an avid and expert downhill skier, skiing at many Michigan & Western U.S. ski resorts, but her favorite areas were Boyne Mountain, MI and Big Sky, MT. She also loved boating with her husband--cruising the Ohio & Mississippi Rivers, the Great Lakes & the canals of Canada. After her husband's retirement, they moved near her birthplace of Montague, MI, and built their retirement home, Woodside By The Dune, near the shores of Lake Michigan. Every day at their new home, Mary and her husband toasted Another Day in Paradise until the ravages of Alzheimer's took her joy of life.

Mary is survived by her husband, Dr. William L. Strecker; her seven children, William L. (Jane) Strecker Jr., Kathleen Marie Francis, Elizabeth Ann Kinder, Mary Patricia (John) Ledyard, John Robert (Audrey) Strecker, Rebecca Suzanne (Mark) Freeland, Martha Jean (Joseph) Sadony; 14 grandchildren; 28 great grandchildren; & her Harbor Hospice Angels, Tracy, Paula, Char & Pam. Her final days of wonderful care were spent at Heartland Health Care Center in Whitehall, MI.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Mabel & William Stewart and Mabel's second husband, George Hanson Sr; brothers, Bill & John Stewart; first grandchild, Kristin Anderson and son-in-law, Ray Francis.

A Funeral Service will be conducted at 11:00 AM Saturday, September 23, 2017 at Montague United Methodist Church 8555 Cook St. Montague with Pastor Mike Riegler officiating. Visitation will take place from 5-7pm on Friday, September 22, 2017 at Beacon Cremation & Funeral Service. 413 S. Mears Ave. Whitehall, and also one hour prior to the start of the service at the church on Saturday. Interment will take place at Oakgrove cemetery in Montague.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be sent to Montague United Methodist Church or Harbor Hospice of Muskegon, 1050 W. Western Ave, Suite 400, Muskegon, MI 49441.

Beacon Cremation & Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

Please visit the families online guestbook at [www.beaconfh.com](http://www.beaconfh.com)