

# THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FOR BANCROFT AND MORRICE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES  
FEBRUARY 2018

COLEEN WILSDON, PASTOR

NINA MORTIMORE, EDITOR

[www.bancroftumc.org](http://www.bancroftumc.org)

[www.morriceumc.org](http://www.morriceumc.org)

**[We] have a shared mission to serve God to the best of our ability by making him known in our church, community and world.**

## <sup>1</sup>**Matt 4:1-2(CEB)**

**4** Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. <sup>2</sup> After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving.

This is an interesting year for our Lenten/Easter calendar. Ash Wednesday is on February 14th or Valentine's Day. Easter itself is on April Fool's Day.

How beautifully symbolic that a day of love will be the start of a time that will lead to the ultimate act of love.

Lent is a time of preparation. Forty days that symbolize the time Jesus spent alone, fasting and being tempted by Satan.

There are those who look at Lent as a time to 'go without', Catholics don't eat meat on Friday's, friends go without chocolate or alcohol. Some people use this time to jumpstart their failed New Year's Resolutions.

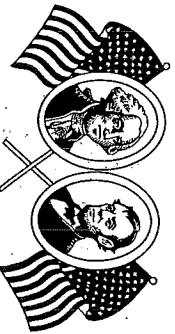
I would challenge you, as we look to this year's Lent, that we take this time to be more Christ-like. Take this time to repent and refocus your life on what God wants from you.

You could try fasting, not the whole 40 days like Jesus, but try 12-24 hrs. Add additional prayer time each of the 40 days. Be daring and do both!

Christmas was a time of prep for a baby's birth, Lent is prep time for the start of our rebirth due to Jesus' sacrifice. It deserves as much, if not more, attention than that gift wrapped holiday.

Peace and Love,

Pastor Coleen



# Missions

## UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR is the part of our larger church which helps all of us to be in mission here and around the world. UMCOR helps victims when natural and man made disasters strike. Often they are one of first agencies into an area and one of the last agencies to leave. Sometimes we cannot leave to help an area so UMCOR has Advance Projects. Each project has a name and number and when you donate to any Advance, 100% of your donation goes to that project.

To donate, simply write a check to you church with the Advance # on the memo line, indicate your wishes on your giving envelope and then place in the collection plate of your church. For more information, please use the UMCOR link on our website or go to [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org).

Below are only a few examples of projects.

### UNITED STATES

Donating to Advance # 901670, helps recovery efforts in the United States. Help in the form of cleaning supplies, food, housing for those helping in recovery efforts or the victims of natural disasters in the United States. When hurricanes hit the southern states, fires burned in the western states, mudslides occurred in California, UMCOR was there to help in the recovery process.

### INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

Many Advance projects are set up in numerous nations to help with specific projects. When an earthquake or hurricane, or typhoon or other natural disaster occurs, UMCOR draws on Advance # 982450 to help with shelter, food and other supplies to the victims.

## GREATER LANSING FOOD BANK

Most of us support our local food banks located in Durand (Loaves & Fishes) and Perry (Perry Morrice Shaftsburg Emergency Relief).

However, some of our readers in Shiawassee County live outside of these service areas.

The Greater Lansing Food Bank partners with the following agencies: Bancroft Food Pantry, Bethel Beacon of Hope, Our Father's Cupboard, Safe Center, St. Mary Outreach Food Pantry and Shiawassee Hunger Network. The Shiawassee Hunger Network includes: Bethany Bible Baptist Church Food Pantry, Catholic Charities, Coruna UMC Food Pantry, Loving Hands Food Pantry, New Lothrop UMC Food Pantry, Salvation Army in Owosso, Shiawassee Council on Aging Food Pantry, St. John's UCC Food Pantry and Vernon Lighthouse Food Pantry.

If you need to contact the Greater Lansing Food Bank, the phone number is (517) 853-7800 and their website is:

[www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org](http://www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org)

## BIBLE TRIVIA

Good luck on these questions from the Bible Trivia game by Cadaco.

1. What piece of jewelry did Pharaoh give to Joseph when he made him ruler?
2. Who wrote the book of Exodus?
3. What do you call a person who predicts the future as told to him by God?
4. Which brother did Joseph keep as hostage when his brothers went home after buying grain from him in Egypt?
5. How many older brothers did Joseph in the Old Testament have?
6. What did Jesus often do when he went to the garden of Gethsemane?
7. How did Absalom steal the hearts of the Israelites?
8. What group rebelled against Syria and maintained an independent Jewish community in Judea?
9. What is the name of the husband of the woman who tried to seduce Joseph, son of Jacob?
10. Which book of the Bible immediately follows 2 Timothy?
11. What did each year of the 40 years of Israelites wandering in the desert represent?
12. To what pool did Jesus send the blind man to wash after Jesus had applied spittle and clay to his eyes?
13. Which is the longest book of the New Testament?
14. What does Jesus say cannot add an hour to your life?

Now for the answers:

1. A ring (Genesis 41:42)
2. Moses
3. A prophet
4. Simeon (Genesis 42:24)
5. 10 (Genesis 30:1-24)
6. Pray (Matthew 26:36)
7. He interrupted those who came for David's help, saying David had not time, but Absalom would, if chosen, judge their suits. (2 Samuel 15:1-6)
8. The Maccabees (or Maccabees)
9. Potiphar (Genesis 39:1-20)
10. Titus
11. One day of the scouting report about Canaan, the pessimism of which displeased God (Numbers 14:34)
12. Siloam (John 9:11)
13. Luke
14. Worry (Matthew 6:27)

# February

- 1 Alpha & Omega Bible Study (M) 7:00 pm
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 3 Camp Coordinator Day at Bay Shore Camp; UMM at Woody's in Bancroft 8:00 am
- 4 Communion Sunday; Church Council (B) 12:30 pm
- 6 Bible Study at Barb W's 10:00 am
- 8 Alpha & Omega Bible Study (M) 7:00 pm
- 11 Hospice House offering (M)
- 13 Bible Study at Barb W's 10:00 am; Tools for Ministry at Swartz Creek UMC
- 14 Valentine's Day; Ash Wednesday
- 15 Newsletter items due
- 18 Haiti Hot Lunch offering (M)
- 19 President's Day
- 20 Bible Study at Barb W's 10:00 am
- 24 Dinner and/or Theater

## ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN STUDY

Please watch your bulletins and the website for more information on our Lenten Study. As of now, we know it will meet at the Morrice United Methodist Church at 6:30 pm on Thursday evenings.

As of this writing, we will not have a scheduled Ash Wednesday Service. That falls on Valentine's Day this year.

The rest of the Holy Week schedule will be in the March newsletter.

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

*Bancroft: Worship 9:00 am  
Children's Sunday School during  
worship*

*Morrice: Worship 10:30 am*

B = Bancroft UMC  
M = Morrice UMC  
☉ = Clergy or both

## SUMMER CAMP

Now is the time to make plans for summer camp. Morrice has had a long relationship with Bay Shore Camp but we have information on all United Methodist camping programs in the state. *For more information, ask Nina or go to the Links and More tab on our website.*

Anyone wishing to learn more about recruiting young people of all ages to attend camp have an opportunity on February 3. That is the Bay Shore Camp Coordinator Workshop. This one-day workshop helps with fund raising ideas, recruiting campers and answers lots of questions about attending camp.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Nina. We would leave the area at 7:15 am and return about 3-4:00 pm. There is no cost to attend this workshop.

There is also a camping workshop at the Tools for Ministry night.

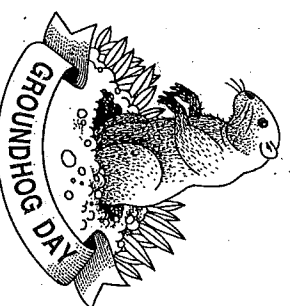
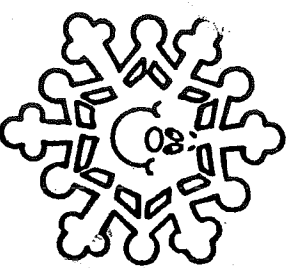
## TOOLS FOR MINISTRY

We have an opportunity to learn more about our churches and many of the jobs we hold within the church. The annual Tools for Ministry will be Tuesday, February 13 at Swartz Creek United Methodist Church.

Registration opens at 4:30 pm with dinner served 5-6:00 pm. Reservations need to be made if you would like dinner which is optional. The worship service is 6-6:30 pm and the training sessions are 6:45-8:15 pm. Dinner is \$10.

The training sessions cover these topics: Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee; An Intimate Presence – Prayer, Christian Camping; Conflict Resolution Skills; Make Worship Service Connect for New People; Lay Member to Annual Conference; Mission Insite; Treasurers/Finance Committee and Trustees. You may choose one workshop to attend. Workshop is \$5.

This opportunity to learn is inexpensive but well worth a few hours of your time. See the flier elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.



Crossroads District UMC

Board of Laity

presents

# Tools for Ministry

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Swartz Creek United Methodist Church  
7400 Miller Road, Swartz Creek, MI 48473

Registration: 4:30 -5:00 PM

Dinner: 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Worship Service: 6:00 - 6:30 PM

Tools for Ministry Training Sessions 6:45 - 8:15 PM

1. **Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee: Becoming Co-conspirators?** with Rev. John Hice, Crossroads District Superintendent ~ Your pastor's, deacon's, and staff's best resource is you. They need your help to "figure it out" and to "keep focus." They need you to become their co-conspirators in ministry. Come to this evening's workshop to learn and discuss what it takes to plan and connive great leadership. Everything from the ideals of living in a covenant relationship with clergy and staff to the nitty-gritty of schedules, responsibilities, and filling out those forms (and hearing the reasons for having them in the first place!). This year, we'll throw in a discussion on Mission Zones, New Districts, a New Conference, and working with a new set of forms. Here's your chance: Rev. Hice is ready to listen to your feedback as well.
2. **An Intimate Presence—Prayer with Rev. Dr. Tara Sutton, Halsey UMC and South Mundy UMC** ~ We sometimes struggle with developing an intimate presence with God because we allow our to-do list and life's difficulties to inhibit continuous communication with the Lord. Come let's explore new ways to seek the face of God and become more intimate with our Savior.
3. **Christian Camping with Rev. George Ayoub, Director of Christian Camping for the Michigan Area of the United Methodist Church** ~ Rev. Ayoub will share how Christian Camping is changing in Michigan in order to be in ministry with local churches and families. Some exciting new programs and improvements will be made this year. There will be time for questions and answers and discussion.
4. **Conflict Resolution Skills with Rev. Don Gohami** ~ Conflict often happens without much effort. Resolution requires skills and efforts. Whether you serve on S/PPRC, Church Council, or no committee at all, conflicts arise and require skills to resolve. The presentation will focus on improving communication skills, and learning to help conflicted parties work through their issues.
5. **How to Make Your Worship Service a Connecting Point for New People in your Neighborhood with Rev. Cathy Townley** ~ We'll spend our time together talking about why and how worship is a bridge to people you want to reach, and simple things that you can do to get to know them. When you know your people you will know what kinds of things to include in worship. No matter what you do to change worship at any time in the life of your church, it's easy to form traditions. Learn a little about how to create a value of change so that you can stay connected with emerging mission fields in your context. The mission field is always changing. How do you conjoin the old with the new without offending everyone? It's possible... and Biblical. Matthew 13: 52.
6. **Lay Leader and Lay Member to Annual Conference with Rev. Esther Irish, Columbiaville UMC and Susan Phillips, Flint Bristol UMC** ~ "For the Good News must first be preached to all nations" (Mark 13:10) Working and celebrating ministry together. We will review the roles and responsibilities of each position, and explore ideas of how to cultivate a healthy relationship with the Pastor. Time will be given to share what works and to answer questions.
7. **Mission Insite with Rev. Barbara Benjamin and Rev. Dirk Elliott** ~ Who is my neighbor? Which age group in my community is growing? Which is declining? What are the habits and hobbies of the people in our community? Mission Insite, a free resource for all churches in the Michigan Conference, can answer these and many more demographic questions. This practical workshop will help you learn how to get the most from Mission Insite and relate this information to potential ministry in your church.
8. **Treasurers/Finance Committee with David Dobbs, Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services** ~ We will review sound financial and budgetary practice to help participants better understand their roles, including their responsibilities, reports, apportionments, and tax issues. This is an opportunity to get answers to your questions, including questions pertaining to the new conference as it relates to finances.
9. **Trustees Committee Forum with Johnny Watkins, Charity UMC** ~ Trustees serve an essential leadership role in United Methodist churches. We will discuss the role of the trustee, including the UMC Trustee job description, information about the Board of Trustees from the Book of Discipline, how to manage the resources of the congregation, the church safety self-inspection form, and other needed legal requirements to be effective stewards of property God has entrusted to the congregation.

## COKESBURY DISPLAY

Please plan to visit the book/resource display that our local Cokesbury representative, Mike Morley, will have set up throughout the evening.

Please make checks payable to Crossroads District Board of Laity

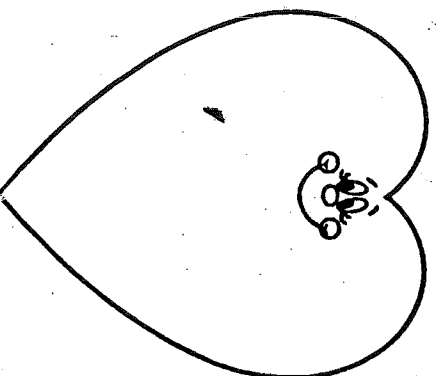
Mail RSVP/Registration form with payment to:

Michelle Weston

5158 Sandalwood Circle

Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439

(810) 694-6266 ([investor38@att.net](mailto:investor38@att.net))



# BANCROFT

The Christmas tree and the decorations were taken down and boxed up and put away until next year. I would like to "Thank" everybody that contributed their time.

Bible study started on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at Barbara Williamson's home at 10:00 am for 9 weeks. The study is on "The Seven Churches of Revelation", by David Jeremiah. We had 11 ladies that attended the first class. We are looking forward to learn about "Revelation" as a group.

1. Christ in the Midst of His Churches  
*Revelation 1:9-20*
2. Losing Your First Love  
*Revelation 2:1-7*
3. The Suffering Church: The Letter to the Church in Smyrna  
*Revelation 2:8-11*
4. The Church of Satan's City: The Letter to the Church in Pergamos  
*Revelation 2:12-17*
5. The Adulterous Church: The Letter to the Church in Thyatira  
*Revelation 2:18-29*
6. The Dead Church: The Letter to the Church in Sardis  
*Revelation 3:1-6*
7. The Faithful Church: The Letter to the Church in Philadelphia  
*Revelation 3:7-13*
8. The disgusting Church: The Letter to the Church in Laodicea  
*Revelation 3:14-22*
9. A Look Into Heaven  
*Revelation 4:1-11*

The meeting for the BUMW scheduled for Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> was canceled due to the weather and will be reschedule for a later date.

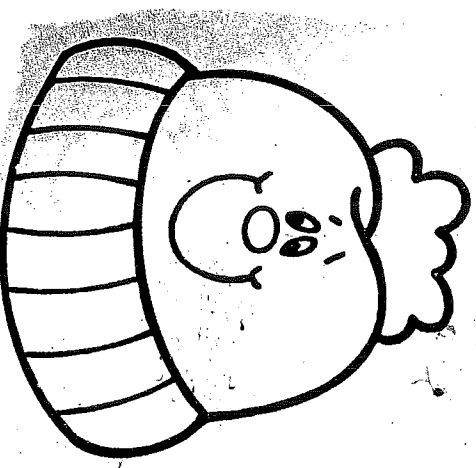
Things seem a little slower for now, so enjoy it while you can before things pick up again, especially when the weather is more cooperative.

We would like to request prayers for those that are under the weather, especially with the flu in full force, and for those in need of prayers.

Happy New Year and Good Health to all!

## MEN EAT BREAKFAST

The United Methodist Men will meet on Saturday, February 3 at 8:00 am. They have a new meeting place. It is at Woody's in Bancroft. Men of all ages are invited to join in the fellowship and have a great breakfast. Men from both churches are invited to come and bring some friends.



# COMING in 2018

District 5 encompasses 89 United Methodist churches and 16 multi-point charges. The new district includes congregations from the existing Ann Arbor, Crossroads, Heartland, and Lansing districts. Still to be determined is the name of the new district and the location of the district office. If you have a name idea for this district and/or other districts, please share that with your current District Superintendent. The new district will be operational on July 1, 2018.



## District 5

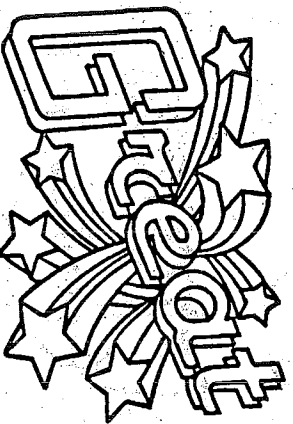
### Churches and Charges

- Alma
- Ashley, Bannister, Pompeii
- Barry County: Woodland
- Bath, Gunnisonville
- Breckenridge
- Brookfield Eaton
- Carland
- Carson City
- Charlotte: Lawrence Avenue
- Chesaning: Trinity
- Corunna
- Corunna: Northwest Venice
- Delta Mills
- DeWitt: Redeemer
- Dimondale
- Dowling: Country Chapel
- East Lansing: Peoples Church
- East Lansing: University
- Eaton Rapids: First
- Fowlerville: First
- Fowlerville: Plainfield, Trinity
- Freeport, Nashville: Peace, Hastings: Welcome Corners
- Grand Ledge: First
- Gresham, Sunfield
- Grovenburg, Felt Plains, Williamston: Wheatfield
- Hastings: First
- Hastings: Hope
- Henderson, Chapin, Owosso: Burton Holt
- Ithaca, Beebe
- Juddville
- Kalamo, Quimby
- Laingsburg
- Lake Odessa: Central
- Lake Odessa: Lakewood
- Lansing: Asbury
- Lansing: Central
- Lansing: First
- Lansing: Grace
- Lansing: Mt Hope
- Lansing: Sycamore Creek
- Leslie
- Maple River Parish: Maple Rapids, Lowe
- Mason: First
- Middlebury
- Middleville
- Milville
- Morrice, Bancroft
- Mulliken
- Munith, Stockbridge
- Nashville, Vermontville
- New Lothrop: First
- Okemos Community Church
- Ovid United, Elsie
- Owosso: First
- Owosso: Trinity
- Perry, Shaftsburg
- Pittsburg
- Portland
- Riverdale: Lincoln Road Robbins
- St. Johns: First
- St. Johns: Pilgrim
- St. Louis: First
- Shepardsville
- Vernon
- Wacousta Community
- Webberville, Williamston: Crossroads
- Williamston

# MORRICE

## ALPHA & OMEGA BIBLE STUDY

The Alpha & Omega Bible Study will meet just a couple of weeks this month. The group will meet at the Morrice church on Thursday, February 1 and 8 at 7:00 pm. They will attend the charge Lenten Study during the rest of the month.



## THANK-YOU NOTES RECEIVED

*The Morrice UMC recently received some thank-you notes. Below are some excerpts from these notes. The entire communication for each is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway.*

Dec. 8, 2017

Christmas Greetings to our Friends and Fellow laborers at Morrice UMC!

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$260 to the ministry of Hospice House of Shiawassee County. Your prayers and donations are so encouraging.

Dec. 7, 2017

This holiday season is a time that we give thanks for the blessings we receive. I want to thank you for blessing the people served by Red Bird Mission, Inc. and Red Bird Clinic, Inc. with your donations in October.

We are your representatives of God's love and peace through our ministries that bring hope and light to a community that is often forgotten. Tim Crawford, Development Director

To the People Morrice United Methodist Church  
1/10/18

Your wonderful gift has once again been most gratefully received by Solar oven partners! You are investing in a ministry that touches the lives of individuals by meeting daily necessities for cooking food and pasteurizing drinking water using the free energy of the sun!

With thanks for your gift and partnership!  
Happy New Year!  
Marj Evans-de-Carpio, Director of Solar Oven Partners UMC

Super job, Morrice UMC! 120 Love boxes!  
Thank you so much for the shoe box gifts you so generously gave to the 2017 Operation Christmas Child (OCC) project. You demonstrated your love and kindness to the hurting kids who will receive your love boxes. Your gifts will bring hope and joy and God's love to these kids.

Thanks again for your sacrificial giving and bringing God's love to needy children all around the world.  
Bill Opland

## NEW YEAR, NEW ENVELOPES

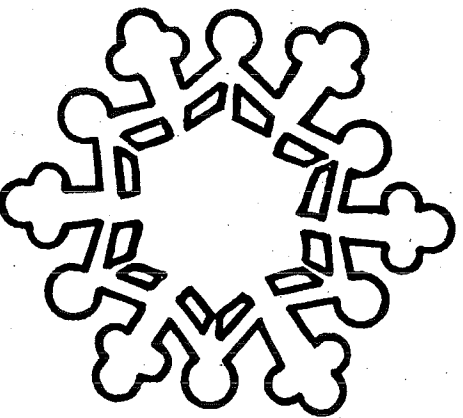
We are about one month into the new year but we have a request from those who record your monetary offerings. Please use the new giving envelopes for 2018. It also helps if your name is on the envelope. This makes recording so much easier!

Please let us know if you did not receive numbered giving envelopes.

Thank you!

## MORRICE UMW

The Morrice UMW will not meet until March. Please watch your bulletins and next month's newsletter for more information.



## THANK YOU

Robert and Donna Godfrey would like to thank the UMW groups from Bancroft, Pittsburg and Morrice for the Christmas bag filled with good things. It was appreciated very much.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Feb. 1	Bruce Rogers II	M
Feb. 1	Lala Norwood	☺ M
Feb. 3	Judy Preadmore	M
Feb. 3	Rebekah Hayden	M
Feb. 6	Ashton Morris	M
Feb. 6	Aaron Markell	M
Feb. 7	Josh Cone	B
Feb. 8	Ella Nelson	M
Feb. 10	Rod Hart	M
Feb. 13	Jeff Bower	B
Feb. 13	Gene Munro	M
Feb. 16	J.D. Eya	M
Feb. 16	Bea Gilbert	M
Feb. 17	Karna Valentine	M
Feb. 21	Lisa Fall	B
Feb. 21	Nyomi Forsyth	☺
Feb. 23	Jacub Hallok	B
Feb. 24	Barbara Medlock	B
Feb. 27	Mike Mortimore	M
Feb. 28	Jeff Hulbert	B
Feb. 29	Pat Grover	M
Feb. 29	Tracy Hart	B

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mar. 2-3	Lay Servant Training
Mar. 11	UMCOR Sunday
Mar. 15	180 Turnaround Conference
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 23-24	Men's Retreat at Bay Shore Camp
Mar. 25	Palm Sunday
Mar. 29	Holy Thursday
Mar. 30	Good Friday
Apr. 1	Easter Sunday

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Feb. 20	Carl & Jenny Cooke	B
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

For Morrice and Bancroft United  
Methodist Churches

**180 TURNAROUND CONFERENCE**

On March 15, Redeemer United Methodist Church in DeWitt will conduct a conference at their building. More information can be found on their website and will be in our March newsletter. DeWitt Redeemer was a small church but through a lot of hard work and dedication have grown to be a vital part of their community. Currently they have multiple worship services, vital outreach ministries and a growing congregation. They are willing to teach others how they accomplished this feat.

**COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SINGLES**

This is a ministry founded to provide single adults with opportunities for Christian growth and fellowship.

The group meets monthly for a program at Caledonia Township Hall (across from Meijer). This month is "Dating 101: The Myths of Dating" and will be on February 8 at 7:00 pm.

The group also has a different social activity each month. On Saturday, February 24, they will have dinner at 6:00 pm at Roma's Back Door Restaurant. If you want, you can than enjoy "Beauty and the Beast" at the Lebowsky Center at 8:00 pm. You must purchase the \$20 tickets in advance by calling Joyce at (989) 723-4945.