

# Cedar Springs UMC

## Pastoral Letter

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Greetings on this very rainy day in April! As the rain falls, images of morel mushrooms, fresh spring flowers and thriving garden plants fill my mind, with the hope of growth from seeds I have sown. At CSUMC, we are seeing the fruit of seeds sown months ago, and I look forward to celebrating some of these in worship on June 2, as we commemorate several projects planned by Trustees and funded by Memorial gifts.

One of these projects is the commissioning of a new cross and flame for our south wall, created by local artist Steve Anderson. If you have not had a chance to see it, I encourage you to come take a look! As this project was coming to fruition, some questions about design and history came up, and I want to share some of the story of our church symbol.

Our denomination was formed in 1968, as a merger of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren. Neither denomination had a particular trademark, so the opportunity to create a new one was embraced with enthusiasm. Edward J. Mikula, educated at the Chicago Institute of Art, was selected as art director, and Edwin H. Maynard, well versed in Christian symbolism and theology, was named editorial director. These two decided the design had to be simple and elegant, to draw attention and immediate recognition, and they came up with two dozen designs, eventually narrowing them down to two.

The one we know so well holds two symbols: the cross and flame: the cross as a symbol of Christianity, Christ's sacrifice, and the Wesleyan call to service; the flame as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, and Wesley's personal experience of the Holy Spirit, as his heart was "strangely warmed." The two tongues of flame can represent the two denominations coming together in one Spirit. The second-place design also included a globe representing God as Creator and the church's world-wide mission.

The cross and flame quickly became a beloved denominational emblem. It is rich with meaning and prevalent on buildings, road signs, and publications. I remember my first UMC Youth sweatshirt with the cross and flame...the first time I became aware of its meaning. As we enjoy the new cross and flame on our building, and perhaps notice the others we pass by in our daily lives, let us be encouraged to live more boldly into our call as United Methodists to open our hearts, our minds, and our doors as enthusiastic participants in the work of the Holy Spirit making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Michelle

(Resource for information: Edwin H. Maynard, "The Cross And Flame: A Personal Memoir," Methodist History, 34:4 (July 1996), 203-213, <https://archives.gcah.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/efd4ed36-351d-4e4d-89d7-8a76a75d96dd/content>.)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Office Contact:** (616) 696-1140, [office@cedarspringsumc.org](mailto:office@cedarspringsumc.org)

**Treasurer Email:** [treasurer@cedarspringsumc.org](mailto:treasurer@cedarspringsumc.org)

**Pastor's Office Hours:** By Appointment Only. Please contact the Pastor directly to make an appointment.

**CSUMC Website:** [www.cedarspringsumc.org](http://www.cedarspringsumc.org)

**Pastor:** Michelle Vallier (231) 329-5483

**Pastor Email:** [pastormvallier@outlook.com](mailto:pastormvallier@outlook.com)



*Just Pray*

**Pentecost Prayer**

**God of power,  
 may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,  
 may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,  
 may the gifts of your Spirit  
 be our goal and our strength,  
 now and always. Amen.**

(As printed in the Presbyterian Book  
 of Common Worship)

**Cedar Springs UMC in Prayer**

Members	Friends	In care Facilities
Jo Furhoff	John Prelesnik	The Brook of C.S.
June Price	Cindy Scooros	Bev Wesche
Clare Kidder	Eric Helsel	Woody Avis
Lori Graham	Henry Axdorf	Bishop Hills
Shirley Neff		Dale Fitzner
Bud and Helen Gambee		

**Special prayers for the family of Fred H. Mayo, as they grieve his passing.**

**Kids Hope USA:** Mentors, Prayer Partners, and Students

**In Our Country's Service**

Nick Segard	Jenny Jo Collin (Mueller)	Aaron Burnside
Tyler Hinton	Peter, Mikelle & Sophia Noreen	Mitchell Phillips
	James, Jackie Finley (Champion)	David Segard III
	Ben, Sarah, Kate & Jessica Smith (Noreen)	

Please contact Janis Opperman at [janis@shaneravenuenursery](mailto:janis@shaneravenuenursery) if you would like to be added to the prayer chain.



Liturgists for May

May 5: Nancy Nielsen

May 12: Janis Opperman

May 19: Sue Harrison

May 26: Sharon Helsel

We extend our gratitude to the Liturgists for their voluntary contributions. We welcome anyone who is able to read to participate in reading the liturgy. Contact Sue Harrison at, 616-446-4765, for more information.

General Fund Information

<b>General Funds Needed Each Month</b>	<b>\$11,815.00</b>
January	\$ 9,213.00
February	\$14,627.00
March	\$20,956.00
April	\$12,725.00
July	
June	
May	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
2024 Current Total:	<b>\$69,336.00</b>
CSUMC Budgeted Income Goal 2023	\$141,787.00

**SPECIAL SUNDAY** PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

In a world plagued by war and terror, violence and destruction, people of faith have a clear call to build peace with justice.

— CHURCH AND SOCIETY, FAITH & FACT CARD ON PEACEBUILDING

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church™

**AA RECOVERY**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

EVERY MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / FRIDAY

**12:00 PM**

HOSTED AT:  
CEDAR SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
140 S. MAIN ST  
CEDAR SPRINGS, MI 49319



## Children's Church

Each spring, we like to celebrate with our high school, tech, and college graduates. During worship on May 12, we will recognize all seniors. The June Chimes will share a bio of each graduate.

Also on May 12, we will present our students finishing 1st grade with a Bible.

It's always fun to see how our kids have grown! Let's celebrate together!



## *Volunteer Opportunities within our church*

**Liturgists:** All are welcome to participate in this important aspect of worship!

**Greeters:** This is a way for you to connect with every person who crosses the threshold. By making parishioners feel welcome from our first encounter we can help to instill a sense of belonging.

**Audio Visual:** 3 people are required to run the equipment for every service. You will be trained by one of the current volunteers.

**CSCFP:** The Food Pantry needs volunteers. If you would like more information, call Sarah Zachow (616-481-3228) or Ann Scott (616-696-1567).

## *P.E.P (People Enjoying People)*

### Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm**  
**Kent Theater: Casablanca**



May



### Birthdays

May 2	Maggie Totten
May 8	Bob Murray
May 13	Sharon French
May 15	Darin Johnson
May 18	Christian Covell
May 18	Andy Drier
May 21	James Duran
May 22	Sid Kempf
May 24	Ella Thompson
May 28	Michael Forrest
May 28	Rachel Neiderheide
May 29	Harold Hulst
May 29	Marnie Swan



### Anniversaries

May 2	Scott & Danielle Phillips
May 10	Ivan & Janis Opperman
May 15	Ralph & Karen Young
May 26	Kathy & Brian Percy

HAPPY  
*Anniversary*  
CELEBRATION

## *What do I want to be, as a member of the Cedar Springs United Methodist Church?*

In the January 2024 Church Council meeting, we did some brainstorming around that question. We were making it more personal than the question we brainstormed a year ago, 'What do we want the Cedar Springs United Methodist Church to look like (on December 31, 2023). The Council thought you might be interested to know the results of this year's brainstorming and the personal things each of us are working on:

- a. Be more open and welcoming.
- b. Be sure to use the person's name.
- c. Be a better leader for adult Sunday school
- d. Be quicker to say hello to strangers.
- e. Be more open to volunteering.
- f. Be more gracious in conflict.
- g. Be more inclusive in task delegation.
- h. Be more involved.
- i. Be less rushed in life.
- j. Be accepting of change.
- k. Be effective in my volunteer leadership roles.
- l. Be creative with missions.
- m. Create more involving activities for PEP Group.
- n. Be more focused on discipleship.
- o. Be a more gracious person.
- p. Make more time to read my Bible with prayer.
- q. Be accepting of others as they are.

These personal goals are on each month's agenda. We feel it is good and effective to keep them always in front of us. We also acknowledge it is easier to change our own behaviors that it is to change anyone else's. Hopefully, we will each be more Christ like in our daily living at the end of this year than we were at the beginning. Please pray for your Church Council members on this journey. A reminder: Your Church Council meets the third Monday of every month at 6:00PM. All are welcome to attend.

"Preach the gospel every day, and when necessary, use words". Attributed to St. Francis

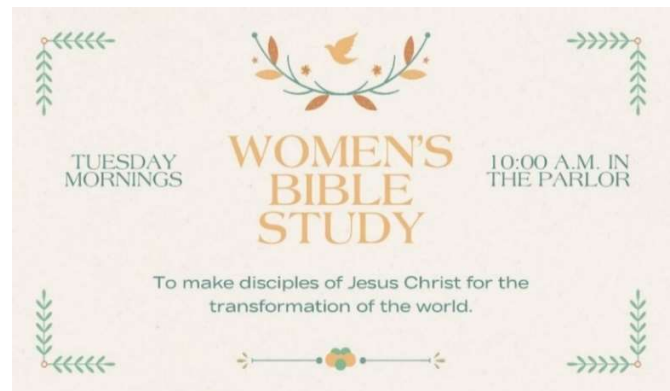
Chuck Smith, Church Council Chair

COUMC is in need of a custodian at an estimated 6-8 hours a week in Rockford. Please contact the church at [courtland.oakfieldumc@gmail.com](mailto:courtland.oakfieldumc@gmail.com) or mail the church a resume at:

Courtland-Oakfield United Methodist Church  
Attn. Scott Fuller  
10295 Myers Lake NE  
Rockford MI 49341

# Notes

- Please note that the deadline to submit articles for the Chimes monthly newsletter is the Wednesday after the Council Meeting of each month. The monthly newsletter will be published on the last weekend of each month.
- Church Council Meetings are on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Parlor room.
- The SPRC meets every 3rd Sunday after worship.





United  
Women  
in Faith

## DON'T MISS THESE 2024 EVENTS!

### SPRINGFLING GATHERING

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

United Methodist Community House, Grand Rapids | Cost: \$15

### MISSION u WEEKEND

July 18-20, 2024

Mt. Pleasant First UMC

Children and youth attend FREE!

Watch for details in the next newsletter.

### DISTRICT ANNUAL BRUNCH & CELEBRATION

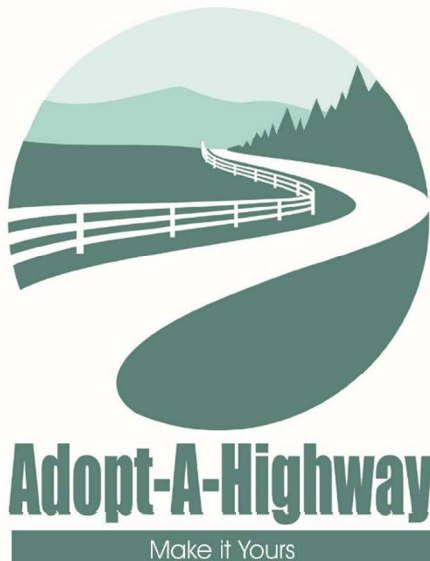
Saturday, September 21, 2024 Ludington

UMC

### MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 28, 2024 St.

Lukes UMC, Essexville, MI



Our first Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup was on April 13th. We appreciate each volunteer, as we wouldn't have succeeded without you.





## *Cedar Springs Food Pantry*

First off, a huge thank you to YOU, the congregation of CSUMC, for housing the Pantry. Your provision of the space needed contributes much to the success of this ministry to the community. In addition, your support through volunteer time, products given and monetary contributions greatly increases the help the Pantry can give.

As we look ahead, we know that once school breakfasts and lunches are less accessible, families will need more food to keep their children healthy. Your gifts of cereals as well as other child-friendly food will help a lot. You may bring these Monday–Thursday mornings, 9–11 am or bring them to church and they will end up in the Pantry.

If you are planting a garden, consider putting in an extra row so you can share the produce with the Pantry clients. Many live in places where they can't grow vegetables but they appreciate having these available during the season. It is a pleasure to see the smiles when they are offered garden goodies.

As always, we welcome additional volunteers. You can be trained whenever it works for you.

Just let Sarah Zachow know you are interested. Her phone is 616-481-3228. Your financial gifts are welcome, too. Together we serve our neighbors as Jesus told us to.

**Anyone wishing to bring flowers in Honor or Memory of someone special please bring on Sunday mornings. Fresh from your garden or a bouquets are always appreciated.**

**Any questions contact Chris Segard at [chris\\_segard@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_segard@yahoo.com)**



# CHIMES MAY 2024

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<b>May 2024</b>				<b>2</b> National Day of Prayer 9-11 Food Pantry 6 pm F.H. Rental	<b>3</b> 12pm AA in Parlor	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Children's Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 The Wired Word 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship	<b>6</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor	<b>7</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10am Ladies Bible Study 1pm Love & Stitches 3:45pm Children's Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor 6 pm F.H. Rental 6:40 Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 6 pm F.H. Rental	<b>10</b> 12pm AA in Parlor	<b>11</b> 10:30 am Childrens Choir Rehearsal
<b>12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> Children's Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 The Wired Word 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship	<b>13</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor	<b>14</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10am Ladies Bible Study 1pm Love & Stitches	<b>15</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor 6 pm F.H. Rental 6:40 Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 6 pm F.H. Rental	<b>17</b> 12pm AA in Parlor	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30 The Wired Word 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship 11:45 SPRC Meeting	<b>20</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor 5:30 Finance Meeting 6 pm Council Meeting	<b>21</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10am Ladies Bible Study 1pm Love & Stitches	<b>22</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor 6 pm F.H. Rental 6:40 Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 6 pm F.H. Rental	<b>24</b> 12pm AA in Parlor	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Peace with Justice Sunday</b> 9:30 The Wired Word 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship	<b>27</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor	<b>28</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10am Ladies Bible Study 1pm Love & Stitches	<b>29</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor 6 pm F.H. Rental 6:40 Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 6 pm F.H. Rental	<b>31</b> 12pm AA in Parlor	

F.H. = Fellowship Hall