

Cedar Springs UMC

Pastoral Letter

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I hope you're all doing well and enjoying this spring transition into glorious Michigan summer! I've been spending my spare time out planting my garden, setting the stage for (God willing) a bountiful harvest.

As I ponder the miracle of gardening, I've been thinking about the nature of church. I came across a relevant Facebook post by Leonard Street that resonated with me:

"Language matters. That's why if I hear that word 'volunteer' one more time in a church setting, I'm going to officially nominate the word for the 'Annoying Word of the Year' award. The church is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing Christ to life, not through 'volunteers' but through 'members' of the body of Christ. The world has casual helpers called 'volunteers' that come and go. The church has committed members and dedicated disciples, active participants in the Lord's mission who are united in their devotion to Christ and each other."

As I think about that portion of the Body of Christ that is CSUMC, I am grateful for the many dedicated members who are pouring their hearts into church. I started a list of "essential positions," and then another of "ministry opportunities," and both were too long for this short letter. Both also created too much potential for leaving someone out, because EVERYONE is essential!! The truth is, we as a church are gifted by God with all the skills, spiritual gifts, energy, and resources that we need to fulfill the mission God has given us in our community and the world, and there is not a single member of this body who is insignificant.

I hope you will all take some time to celebrate who we are able to be as a church, and then ponder what we can do to continue to set the stage for God's next bountiful harvest in and through us.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Michelle

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

Office Contact: (616) 696-1140, office@cedarspringsumc.org

Treasurer Email: treasurer@cedarspringsumc.org

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

CSUMC Website: www.cedarspringsumc.org

Pastor: Michelle Vallier (231) 329-5483

Pastor Email: pastormvallier@outlook.com



Spirit of Spring Emergence,
your glory rises from winter’s gentle remnants.
Tender shoots of green grass reach upward through leaves still in decay.
Squirrels untuck from their nests and tip-toe across soils damp with melted snow.
As the light of day rises and begins to stretch, birdsong calls life to wake.
May all who wonder and worry before lands still slumbering
know yours is a trustworthy hope.
Even in the restless seasons of quiet persistent grief,
hovering like a winter darkness whose work it seems will never end,
you are the whispered promise,
humble and patient,
of what is carefully held and hidden in the depths
just waiting for its right time
to buzz, bustle, and blossom us to life again.

– m jade kaiser, enfleshed

Cedar Springs UMC in Prayer

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

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 if you would like to be added to the prayer chain.

****Please mark your calendars! Our Sunday worship time will shift to 11:00 am starting July 7****

General Fund Information

General Funds Monthly Goal: \$ 12,533.34

General Funds Yearly Goal 2024: \$150,400.00

	General Fund	Online Giving	Monthly Total
January	\$ 8,053.00	\$1,160.00	\$ 9,213.00
February	\$13,652.00	\$ 975.00	\$14,627.00
March	\$13,496.00	\$7,460.00	\$20,956.00
April	\$12,725.00	\$1,075.00	\$13,800.00
May	\$ 8,514.00	\$	\$ 8,514.00
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
2024 Current Total:	\$56,440.00	\$10,670.00	\$67,110.00

****Please note: The budgeted income goal has been updated to reflect the year 2024. Additionally, general giving and online giving now have separate columns to facilitate easier tracking in future Chimes reports.**

Volunteer Opportunities

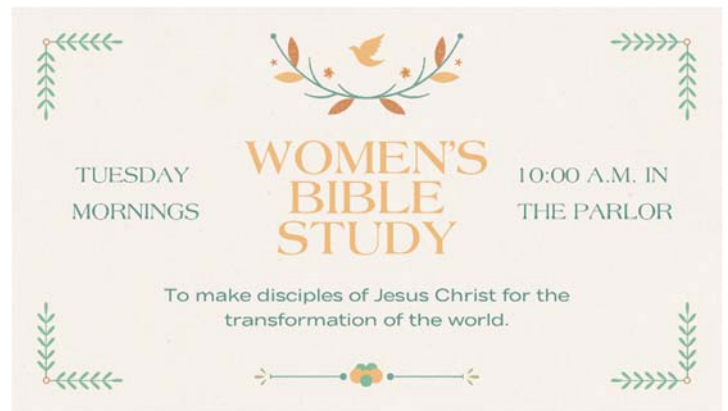


Liturgists: All are welcome to participate in this important aspect of worship!

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 each 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).

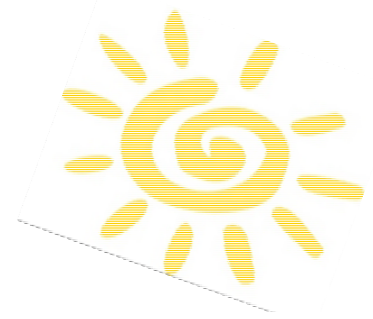


Church Council

There will be no church council meeting in June. The next meeting will be July 15 @ 6:00 PM.



June



Birthdays

- June 3 Valerie Drier
Janis Opperman
- June 4 Anna Truman
- June 5 Jeff Jones
Benjamin Totten
- June 10 Rosalind McIntyre
- June 13 Pastor Michelle
- June 14 Jade Miller
- June 15 Diane Christie
- June 17 Connie Kidder
- June 19 Fred Gunnell
Sondra Nielsen
- June 20 Brian Percy
- June 20 Paul Houghtaling
- June 22 June Price
- June 28 Diane Bengtson
Miley Thacker
- June 29 Kathleen Makowski
- June 30 Martin Reister

Anniversaries

- June 6 Bob & Bev Hale
- June 7 Pete & Robin Kribbet
- June 9 Jerry & Betty VanderWal
- June 10 Mark & Stephanie Tabor
- June 14 Keith & Helene Caldwell
- June 18 Fred & Carollee Gunnell
- June 19 Tim & Pam Covell
Martin & Darcy Reister
- June 21 Art & Rosann Gerhardt
- June 25 Todd & Marnie Swan
- June 28 Bill & Kit Rau

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

- 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.



At Kids Hope USA, we believe that all kids matter to Jesus and that the local church is uniquely called to care for children in their community who would benefit from another caring, reliable relationship. We connect Christian churches with the neighborhood elementary and middle schools to operate a proven and established school-based mentoring program. Through intentional training and support, churches mobilize volunteer mentors into schools to meet with students once a week and develop a one-on-one mentoring relationship, and those relationships matter. (taken from <https://kidshopeusa.org/about-us/>)

Did you know?

79%

of students improved in socio/emotional competency after just one year of mentoring.

(Gutierrez)



Adopt-a-Highway

Road Clean Up July 20

The summer clean up event for this year will be on July 20 for the two-mile section of 17 Mile Road from Algoma Avenue to Olin Lakes Avenue. It is about a two-hour commitment on Saturday morning starting at 9 AM. Join us in the parking lot behind Huck's Corner store on the northwest corner of Algoma Avenue and 17 Mile Road. If you have any questions, please call Tom Noreen at 616-260-0881 or email tomnoreen@aol.com.

Senior Spotlight: Stories of Achievement and Growth

CSUMC

2024 High School Graduates

Brooklyn Anderson is the daughter of Duane Anderson and Monica Cook. Her proud grandparents are Paul and Darlene Anderson.

A 2024 graduate of Lakeview High School, she has made many friends at school. This spring she was crowned Senior Prom Queen.

The outdoors is where Brooklyn likes to spend her free time. Kayaking and hiking are a couple of activities she enjoys with friends.

She currently works part-time for Walmart in Greenville as a cashier.

Brooklyn plans on pursuing a career in the cosmetology field. Her long-term goal is to open and run her own business.

Elizabeth Neiderheide is a 2024 graduate of Ferris State University. She is the daughter of Randy and Suzanne and has two sisters, Emily and Rachel.

Elizabeth will be walking in her commencement ceremony from Ferris State University on May 4, 2024, where she will be receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with Cum Laude recognition. She will be awarded her diploma upon completion of her student teaching position at Greenville Public Schools in the Fall of 2024.

Elizabeth chose to complete the dual-banding program at Ferris and will be certified to teach grades PK-3rd and 3rd-6th. Over the course of her field placements, she has fallen in love with the 4th grade students and hopes to secure a full-time teaching position for that grade level in the near future.

Elizabeth is extremely thankful for all the people along the way that made this possible - it was not an easy road! She is excited to continue working with children and living her passion, each and every day!

Class of
2024
Congratulations!

Rachel Neiderheide is a 2024 graduate of Cedar Springs High School. She is the daughter of Randy and Suzanne and has two sisters, Elizabeth and Emily.

Rachel has been a Red Hawk since Kindergarten and is excited to graduate from CSHS. She was on the Honor Roll throughout Middle School and all 4 years of High School, where she received her Academic letter for her GPA. In addition to being a CSHS student, Rachel also attended KCTC her Senior year, where she focused on learning the various aspects of the culinary profession. She has also been enrolled in the Early Middle College program since her Sophomore year, which is partnered with GRCC. She will complete her 5th "Super Senior" year in 2024/2025 and graduate in April 2025 with her Associates of Arts degree, at the same time as she earns her official high school diploma. Rachel plans to continue her education at Ferris State University in the Fall of 2025, where she will pursue a career in Hospitality Management. She is hoping to work in the culinary field and possibly open her own bakery or bed and breakfast some day!

At church, Rachel attended Sunday School and VBS and participated in Kids' Choir. She completed confirmation, volunteered at VBS, joined in youth group activities, and attended church camp at Lake Louise.

While in high school, Rachel was involved in the CSHS Marching band for 3 years, where she played the flute. She made life-long friends in band and learned so much about discipline, dedication, working as a team and how to endure the long, hot days of band camp!

Rachel has had an amazing 4 years at CSHS and is very excited to see what her future holds. She is grateful for all the support she has received from her family, friends, teachers, and everyone else who has guided her along this path! She couldn't have done it alone. We know that no matter what she does, she will succeed! She is determined, ambitious, intelligent and has a good, kind heart too! Never stop reaching for the stars!!

Lilly Scott is graduating with the Cedar Springs High School class of 2024 on May 23.

Lilly is the daughter of Tim and Dorothy Scott and granddaughter of Ann Scott. James and Allison are her siblings.

Lilly joined the school choir in 6th. She continued to participate and enjoy it through high school. The CSHS plays also attracted Lilly's attention. She worked as part of the stage crew for *The Somewhat True Tales of Robin Hood* last fall. And this spring she was behind the scenes for *Annie*. She hopes to be able to help the Cedar Springs Community Players in the future!

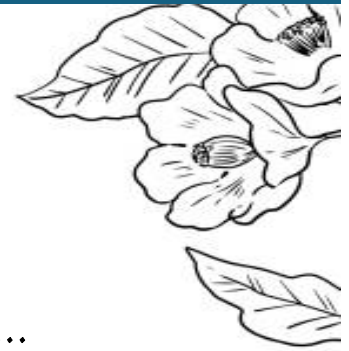
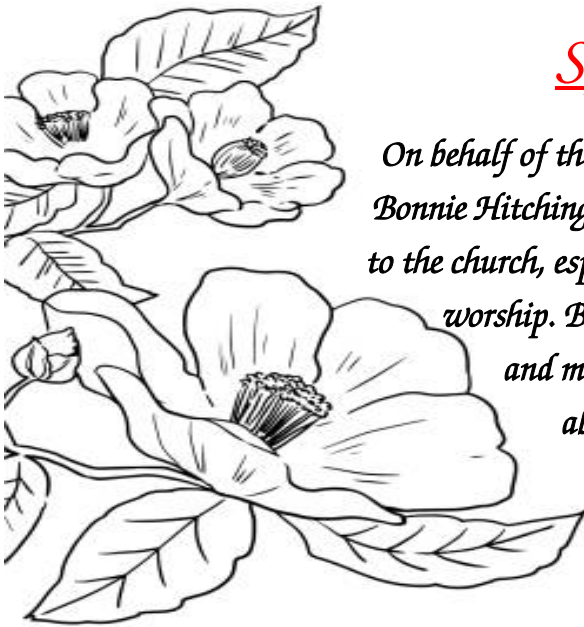
Lilly has been part of our Sunday School, VBS, Christmas programs and Kids' Choir. In middle school and high school, she participated in youth activities, rung chimes, and sung in the adult choir. In 2018 after taking confirmation classes Lilly became a member of the church. She currently serves on the church council.

Choir camp at Lake Louise has been an annual event for Lilly since the 5th grade. She would like to thank her church family for making it possible to attend every year.

Finding a job is Lilly's priority after high school!

Lilly, "I would like to thank my mom and dad, my brother James, sister Allison, and my Grandma Scott for being there for me when I needed them."

Everyone is invited to her open house here at the church on June 9 from 1 PM to 5 PM.



Special Thanks

On behalf of the congregation, I would like to thank Bonnie Hitchingham for her years of dedicated service to the church, especially for sharing her gift of music in worship. Bonnie, may God bless you and keep you... and may your path continue to reflect the abundance of God's love.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Michelle

Trustees Report

The Trustees committee is excited about two big projects that are now complete. We hope you are enjoying the new cross and flame made by local metal artist, Steve Anderson, now on the south outside wall. Soon we will have a spotlight for it so it will be visible at night. We also hope the carillon is a joy to everyone. Figuring out how to have it play the way we want and when we want is an ongoing process. We have group being trained so collectively we should get it right.

There are a number of other small jobs being tackled, also. Did you notice the clean fans in the sanctuary? Now they blend in with the ceiling. We are aware of issues in the ladies bathroom, but it always works perfectly when we're there to fix it. Don't hesitate to ask a member of the trustees about any need you think has been overlooked.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet on June 8 at 9 AM at the Evergreen Inn for breakfast and Bible Study of Nehemiah Chapter 5.

We will not meet in July because of conflicts with the Mission Trip and the Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up.

Anyone wishing to bring flowers to Honor or in Memory of someone special please bring on Sunday mornings. Fresh from your garden or bouquets are always appreciated. Any questions contact chris_segard@yahoo.com.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



CEDAR SPRINGS COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Some programs take the summer months off; the Food Pantry isn't one of them. We continue to be open each week, Monday through Thursday from 9 to 11 am. Those who serve clients, shop for food, and keep the shelves stocked will be "on the job" as usual. The client families will continue to come as well. The Pantry will become even more crucial for those who depend on school breakfasts and lunches. It will provide additional meals for them to have at home.

Each month, we purchase \$400-\$500 worth of food from Feeding America. We have an account there, #1290, and contributions to the account enable these purchases. If you want to support the Pantry, this is one way to truly make a huge difference. Certain categories of products from Feeding America costs us only pennies on the dollar, which increases our selection.

Last month we suggested that you plant an extra row in your garden and share the extra produce with the Pantry. Anytime you find you have "extra", it is welcome at the Pantry. Maybe you have a neighbor whose garden is doing especially well. Let them know of this opportunity. Please bring it when the doors are open.

Now is an excellent time to consider becoming a volunteer at the Pantry. With some of our regular volunteers away on vacation, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Contact Sarah Zachow at 616-481-3228.

Thank you for your continued generous support.



Mission Trip 2024

Do you want to make a difference in someone's life? Join us for our annual mission trip to Habitat for HiawathaLand in Manistique, MI. Since 2004, we have gone on a weeklong mission trip where we have done our best to "make a difference in someone's life." As time and skills permit, the folks we are helping have worked alongside us as we build or repair their home. Over the years, we've watched families grow as they shared their lives with us. This year we are heading north on July 7 and will return on July 13. We've sided, insulated, hung drywall and built decks on new houses and rehabs along with installing windows, doors, kitchen cabinets, wood flooring, sinks, bathtubs, and the list goes on. Last year we replaced windows and moved some walls in a house they are renovating. Did everyone know how to do these things, of course not! We learn from each other. Right now, we have a crew of 7 lined up to go! Why do we keep going on these trips to sleep on old prison mattresses? One is we are called to share our gifts and talents with our neighbors. It is a great time of fellowship and learning. Learning not only new skills but also about our teammates and most importantly about ourselves. It is rewarding and fulfilling to see the smile on a client's face when you complete a task that brings them closer to owning their own home.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please call Tom Noreen at 616-260-0881 or email tomnoreen@aol.com.



Liturgists for May



*June 2: Chris Segard June 9: Pastor Mary Brown
June 16: Noah Scott June 23: Nancy Nielsen
June 30: 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.

P.E.P

Join us on June 2nd @ 3:00 pm @ Kent Theater for Scott Phillips' play "Carbon Dating". Tickets are \$12 at the will call. Afterward, we'll gather for dinner.

Watch for dates on these upcoming events: Gilmore Car Museum, lunch at Smugglers Cove on Hess Lake in Newaygo, Euchre party/game time (other games for those who don't play Euchre).

CHIMES JUNE 2024

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
JUNE 2024 30 9:30 The Wired Word 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship						1
2 9:30 The Wired Word 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship 3 pm P.E.P Kent Theater	3 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor	4 9-11 Food Pantry 10am Ladies Bible Study 1pm Love & Stitches	5 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor	6 9-11 Food Pantry 6 pm F.H. Rental	7 12pm AA in Parlor	8 9 am Mens Group 12 pm F.H. Rental
9 9:30 The Wired Word 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship 12 pm F.H. Rental	10 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor	11 9-11 Food Pantry 10am Ladies Bible Study 1pm Love & Stitches	12 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor	13 9-11 Food Pantry	14 12pm AA in Parlor	15 12 pm F.H. Rental
16 Father's Day 9:30 The Wired Word 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship	17 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor 5:30 Finance Meeting 6 pm Council Meeting	18 9-11 Food Pantry 10am Ladies Bible Study 1pm Love & Stitches	19 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor 5 pm F.H. Rental	20 9-11 Food Pantry	21 12pm AA in Parlor	22
23 9:30 The Wired Word 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship/Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner	24 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor	25 9-11 Food Pantry 10am Ladies Bible Study 1pm Love & Stitches	26 9-11 Food Pantry 12pm AA in Parlor 5 pm F.H. Rental	27 9-11 Food Pantry	28 12pm AA in Parlor	29 12 pm F.H. Rental

F.H. = Fellowship Hall