

Cedar Springs UMC

Pastoral Letter

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We have many things to celebrate as a church in this time—a new roof, beautiful music from our new carillon, and gifts of ministry shared enthusiastically by so many. I truly feel that this church is a place of calm, an eye in the storm of the world's divisions. Thank you all for opening your hearts and minds, that our doors might continue to be open to new people and new possibilities.

This August, as we live out our faith amidst the contentiousness of another election season, my spiritual focus is the doctrine of *imago Dei*, image of God. I hope to share my meditations with you in various ways—beginning with this poem and continuing with our study of scripture each week.

Imago Dei

When I begin to believe that I
In all my vulnerability
Am made in the image of God,
I feel my sense of worth
feel empowered to speak my truth
I am emboldened to connect with others
In a deep and meaningful way

When I begin to see
The image of God in others
I become less afraid
I look past the divisions
I seek to understand the nuances of
Inadequate language
I value heart and soul and breath
I ask questions
I listen

-Michelle Vallier, November 2020

May the Holy Spirit be with each one of you as we travel this path together.

In Christ's Love,
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

CHIMES AUGUST 2024



*God our Father, God our Mother,
God, our intimate parent,
you give us life. You provide for us,
protect us, guide us, and love us.
Like little children we rest in your loving arms;
whether you speak or are silent,
you hold us, and we are at peace.*

-Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net

Cedar Springs UMC in Prayer

| Members | Friends | In care Facilities |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Jo Furhoff | John Prelesnik | The Brook of C.S. |
| June Price | Harry & Sandy Speek | Bev Wesche |
| Shirley Neff | | Woody Avis |
| Lori Graham | | Bishop Hills |
| George DeYoung | | Dale Fitzner |
| Bud and Helen Gambee | | |

Special prayers for the family of Herm Prins.

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.

CHIMES AUGUST 2024

General Fund Information

General Funds Monthly Goal 2024: \$ 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 | \$ 945.00 | \$ 9,459.00 |
| June | \$11,109.00 | \$ 930.00 | \$12,039.00 |
| July | \$ 8,461.00 | | \$ 8,461.00 |
| August | | | |
| September | | | |
| October | | | |
| November | | | |
| December | | | |
| | | | |
| 2024 Current Total: | \$76,010.00 | \$12,545.00 | \$88,555.00 |

****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.**

Ministry Opportunities

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

Greeters: This is a way for you to connect with everyone 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. One of the current volunteers will train you.

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





August

Birthdays

- Aug 5 Karen Young
- Aug. 9 Jenny Jo Collin
- Aug. 10 James Scott
- Aug. 11 Allison Scott
- Aug. 12 Lena Wesche
- Aug. 17 Nancy Buck
- Aug. 19 Darcey Raymond
- Aug. 21 Judy Murray
- Aug. 23 Tim Covell
- Aug. 27 Sabrina Tabor
- Aug. 30 Nancy Carlson



Anniversaries

- Aug 13 James & Tina Duran
- Aug. 14 Dennis & Nancy Buck
- Aug. 20 John & Cindy Wolfe
- Aug. 25 Gerry & Gloria Gebhardt



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

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



“

"I look forward to that designated hour each week with my student! Our time together really benefits the student, but I also believe a mentor gains from the experience as well: to see the joy in the simple things, small steps add up to big steps forward, kindness makes a difference and never gives up."

KIDS HOPE USA MENTOR



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.

CEDAR SPRINGS COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Simply Give benefits for the Cedar Springs Community Food Pantry:

Any Simply Give cards you purchase at the Cedar Springs Meijer between now and September 28th will be credited to our Pantry. HOWEVER - There are two double match days coming up, which are Saturday's, *August 17th* and *September 14th*. For example, if you purchase \$20 worth of cards on either of these two days, Meijer will *double match* and this will yield \$60 in purchasing power for the Pantry. Please keep this in mind to assist in stretching your contributions even further.

We are welcoming your produce donations. The clients are delighted when we have green beans, tomatoes, summer squash, or any other garden items.

I know we still have weeks of summer ahead. However, if you are looking at your fall commitments and are thinking that you would like to offer time to community service, ask what opportunities there are for being a part of the Pantry team; Sarah Zachow can tell you what the needs are and how your time and talents can be utilized. She can be reached at 616-481-3228.

What is NRSVUE, anyway?

When I was in 3rd grade, my UMC gave me my first “real” Bible—Revised Standard Version (RSV), a translation first published in the 1950’s. Its purpose was to be readable and accurate, incorporating new scholarship, which included the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. A New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) was published in 1989, and incorporated new insights found in recently published critical editions of the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts. In 2021, another revision was published, the New Revised Standard Updated Edition (NRSVUE), which incorporated the work of more than 50 scholars to consider style and translation, ensuring that the words we read are even closer to the original meaning, and reducing cultural/political/linguistic filters. When preparing sermons, this is my starting point, because I believe it to be the most accurate translation, most of the time. There are, as you all know, many translations and even paraphrases of scripture, and we can use them in various ways—for meditation, for discernment of wider meanings, to get ourselves out of our entrenched ways of thinking about God and the world. For further investigation, I recommend these two websites, which offer an array of options: Biblehub.com and Biblegateway.com. Happy reading!

-Pastor Michelle

CHIMES AUGUST 2024

THANK YOU!

The Cedar Springs Community Food Pantry would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the pantry. Without that support, we would not be able to help as many families as we do.

Currently, the Cedar Springs Meijer is supporting us through their Simply Give Program. Any card purchased there on either *August 17th* or *September 14th* will be *double matched*. Therefore, your \$10 donation will become \$30 on those days. *Please mark these dates on your calendar!* Thank you, again.



Liturgists for August



August 4: Nancy Nielsen August 11: Janis Opperman

August 18: Sue Harrison August 25: 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



Here are the upcoming **PEP** activities:

August 21 - Euchre and game day at Kathy Ries' house. Please sign up and bring an appetizer to share. We will start at 3:00.

September 17 - An excursion to the Gilmore Car Museum. We will carpool from church at 10:00 a.m. The cost of admission is \$20.

Mark your calendars for

Church Conference!

Sunday, October 27, 2:00 pm at
Sparta UMC, with a HUB
gathering from 3:00 - 4:30.



The Clark family, who rented the Fellowship Hall for baby shower, sent a thank you card. "Thank you so much. We had a wonderful time. Beautiful place to have our daughter's baby shower."

—Thanks again,

The Clark Family

Ministry Opportunity: We are seeking smiling faces to bring joy and warmth to our community at our Red Flannel Day tent on October 5th!



Pray with us on August 18th as we pray a blessing over the backpacks as students prepare for an exciting new school year. We are sending our students back to school with our prayers and blessings, offering support and encouragement for their academic journey.



MEN'S GROUP
August 10th
9:00 AM AT EVERGREEN INN ON 14 MILE
NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 8



CHIMES AUGUST 2024

| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Monday</u> | <u>Tuesday</u> | <u>Wednesday</u> | <u>Thursday</u> | <u>Friday</u> | <u>Saturday</u> |
|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| August 2024 | | | | 1 9-11 am Food Pantry | 2 12 pm AA in Parlor | 3 |
| 4 10 am The Wired Word 11 am Worship Service 12 pm Fellowship | 5 9-11 am Food Pantry 12 pm AA in Parlor | 6 9-11 am Food Pantry 10 am Ladies Bible Study 1 pm Love & Stitches | 7 9-11 am Food Pantry 12 pm AA in Parlor 6:40 pm Adult Choir Practice | 8 9-11 am Food Pantry | 9 12 pm AA in Parlor | 10 |
| 11 10 am The Wired Word 11 am Worship Service 12 pm Fellowship | 12 9-11 am Food Pantry 12 pm AA in Parlor | 13 9-11 am Food Pantry 10 am Ladies Bible Study 1 pm Love & Stitches 5 pm SPRC in Parlor | 14 9-11 am Food Pantry 12 pm AA in Parlor | 15 9-11 am Food Pantry | 16 12 pm AA in Parlor | 17 |
| 18 10 am The Wired Word 11 am Worship Service 12 pm Fellowship | 19 9-11 am Food Pantry 12 pm AA in Parlor 5:30 pm Finance Meeting 6 pm Council Meeting | 20 9-11 am Food Pantry 10 am Ladies Bible Study 1 pm Love & Stitches | 21 9-11 am Food Pantry 12 pm AA in Parlor 3 pm P.E.P. Euchre | 22 9-11 am Food Pantry | 23 12 pm AA in Parlor | 24 |
| 25 10 am The Wired Word 11 am Worship Service 12 pm Fellowship | 26 9-11 am Food Pantry 12 pm AA in Parlor | 27 9-11 am Food Pantry 10 am Ladies Bible Study 1 pm Love & Stitches | 28 9-11 am Food Pantry 12 pm AA in Parlor 6:40 pm Adult Choir Practice | 29 9-11 am Food Pantry | 30 12 pm AA in Parlor | 31 |

F.H. = Fellowship Hall