Caledonia United Methodist Church
250 Vine Street, Caledonia, MI 49316
(616) 891-8669 ~ www.caledoniaumc.org

October 2017
Vision

Indoor Trick-or-Treating

Tuesday, October 31st
from 5:00-8:00pm in the
Fellowship Hall

This is a great opportunity for us to meet kids and families from the community. Please consider "hosting" a table by decorating a table (and yourselves if you want!!) and passing out candy. You will need to have enough candy for 150 kids, and you will be able to start decorating your table at 5:00pm. Start thinking creatively, there will be prizes given for the best table!
We hope you can join us!

Mission Statement

Caledonia United Methodist Church will:

Serve
our community in the name of Jesus Christ by spreading the Good News of God's unlimited love and forgiveness;

Strengthen
faith through Christian education for people of all ages;

Connect
in Christian fellowship with our family, our community, and the world.

Pastor's Page

Annual Meeting of Caledonia U.M. Church

What Is Church Conference ???

Every year about this time announcements appear for Church Conference. Maybe you have seen them and wondered what all the fuss is about. In a nutshell it is our church's annual meeting. During Church Conference we elect leadership and set pastoral compensation for the coming year (2018); we approve Lay Servants / Speakers; we receive some updates on membership and finances; and usually stories of the Church's mission and ministry are briefly shared. Many day to day decisions are entrusted to small groups within the church; but some things are important enough for everybody to have a say – electing the leadership of these groups for one thing. Sometimes we even have a special Church Conference to decide on something really big - like when we purchased the property on Kraft Avenue.

Everybody is welcome to attend Church Conference, which will be 7:00 p.m. on October 26, 2017. All members may vote. As a United Methodist Church we not only share in mission projects with other United Methodists worldwide, but we share joint ministries in this area (the West Michigan Conference and the Grand Rapids District). In preparing for Church Conference several committees are reviewing the year, setting goals for the future, and sharing insights and information with area (Conference and District) leadership.

As we encounter the Story of Jesus Christ each week in worship and Sunday School we are invited to find our story in God's Story … our personal story, our family's story, our church's story. Church Conference is the place where we share and shape our church's story - The Story of CUMC - Caledonia United Methodist Church.

Please join us in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 26th as our District Superintendent Bill Haggard leads us through the reflections and decisions about CUMC.

Grace and peace,

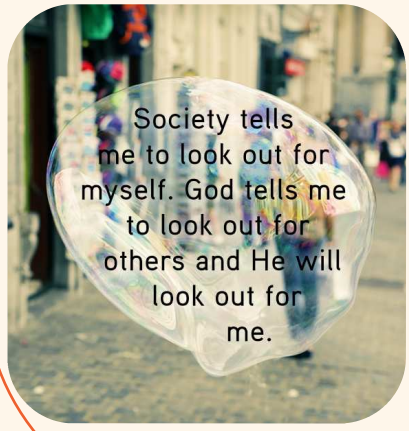
Pastor Godie

CHOOSE TO SEE

Ask someone about blessings and most will start naming the many they see around them. Things like families and homes or the neighbor who is always there to help. Or the blessings we feel when walking in the woods or when working in our gardens. We joyfully give credit to God and give thanks.

My question today is, do you ever look for blessings in places that make you uncomfortable? Like seeing the person setting in the surgery waiting room all by themselves. Or the teenager hanging out downtown, not sure if it's safe to go home or even if they have a home to go to. What about that person standing on the street corner with a sign that says "will work for food" or the homeless person you walk by every day on your way to work.

The apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 2:4 "Let each of you look not only to his own interest, but also to the interest of others". In the book of James we are told how we must put our faith into action. It is said that actions speak louder than words. So if not giving, not rolling down the window, not sitting beside the person all alone are we choosing not to see? And if we choose not to see, what do our actions say about us and our faith?

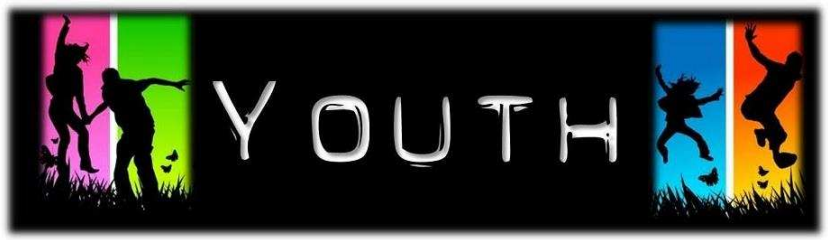


Seeing matters and during Advent this year we are going to start a "Blessing Bag" project. All of the project details will be in the November newsletter, but for now I ask you to pray for the blessings you may have chosen not to see. The ones that make you uncomfortable seeing. It has been said "God didn't add another day to your life because you needed it. He did it because someone out there needs you!" God will show you how to put your faith into action.

Sincerely in Christ , Sharon

Harvest Potluck

We are in search of volunteers to help **set-up and clean-up** our harvest Potluck following worship on October 22nd. Please contact the church office if you are interested.



If you are in 6th-12th grade and need a break from school, and some time to fellowship with us, you are welcome to join us as we have our first **Sunday Funday** for the school year. We will meet at the church at **3:00pm on Sunday, October 22nd**. We will travel to Robinettes to journey through their corn maze, then enjoy cider and donuts before returning home. The cost is $7.

Hope you can join us, and remember friends are welcome too!

YOUTH of the Month

Hailey Cherpes is a Freshman at Caledonia High School and also attends Kent Innovation High.

She participates in the Equal Alliance Club through CHS.
Some of her other hobbies are dancing, singing and youth group.

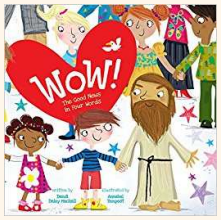
Hailey's favorites include:

Color: Purple
Food or special treat: Chocolate
Animal: Dolphin
Subject in school: Choir
Thing about church: Everything!

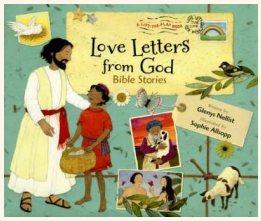
Take a moment to say "hello" next time you see Hailey at church or out in the community!

Grand Opening

We have a new **Children's Library**! It is located in the back corner of the Fellowship Hall between the nursery and the Sunday School hallway. There are books for toddlers to teens. This library is for kids of all ages, parents, grandparents, teachers and anyone who loves God and enjoys a good book. Books are checked out on an honor system. Bring them back when you have read them, or about 1 month.



Recommended books this month are **Wow, The Good News in 4 Words** and **Love Letters from God**. Happy reading!



UM Communications Survey

You have two opportunities to attend a presentation of the results of the congregational survey that was conducted in July.

Sunday, October 8th following worship

Wednesday, October 11th at 6:30pm

We will meet in the Sanctuary on each of these dates, and both presentations will be of the same information.

Adopt - A - Highway

Please join us **Sunday, October 1st at *3:00pm*** for our fall roadside clean up. We will meet in the D&W parking lot to pass out supplies. Please join us as we do our part to keep Caledonia clean.

Are you looking for an opportunity to Serve, Strengthen *and* Connect all at once?

We are looking to provide **Valdis & Jean Arins** with a meal once a week. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. They like soups and casseroles, but not too spicy.

Sisters In Spirit will meet on Thursday, October 5th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be baking cookies which will be frozen and stored in the kitchen for use during future coffee hours on Sunday mornings. After baking we will have dinner.

The **United Methodist Women** will meet at 10:00 am on Thursday, October 5th in the Fellowship Hall.

Women In Step will meet at noon on Wednesday, October 25th.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

4 ~ Gary Besteman
5 ~ Patti Kohl
9 ~ Dennis Homminga
11 ~ Ardith VanderBee
12 ~ Tyler Cross
14 ~ Carole Strong
~ Hayden Kohl
17 ~ Fred Bradley
~ Kraig Spear
18 ~ Sallie Niles
19 ~ Valdis Arins
28 ~ David DeVries
~ Tamara Hammond
28 ~ Stuart Kohl
31 ~ Suellen Claflin
~ Sherill Fahrni

Happy Anniversary

17 ~ Chuck & Judy Swift

If you don't see your name on our birthday and anniversary list, please let us know so you can be included!

Worship Leaders

Acolyte

1 ~ Blake Benjamin
8 ~ Andrew Cherpes
15 ~ Brody Benjamin
22 ~ Tzila Handley
29 ~ Andrew Cherpes

Coffee Hour

1 ~
8 ~
15 ~ Chris Hayden & Susan House
22 ~ Harvest Potluck
29 ~ UMW

Counters

1 ~ Jon & Jean VanDenBeldt
8 ~ Jim & Jayne Porritt & Vicki Young
15 ~ Barb Scott & Shirley Tolan
22 ~
29 ~

Hospitality

1 ~ Jon & Jean VanDenBeldt
8 ~ Pauline Brower & Jean Soest
15 ~ Betty Bourn & Tex Bryant
22 ~ Jim & Jayne Porritt
29 ~ Gary & Judy Kidder

Liturgist

1 ~ Joan Pierce
8 ~ Pat Schenk
15 ~ Deb Decker
22 ~ Loralynne Clark
29 ~ Deb Decker

Nursery

1 ~ Erin Benjamin
8 ~ Eliz Gundlach
15 ~ Karen Bradley
22 ~ Nancy Kinney
29 ~ Mona Jacobs

Sunday Drivers

1 ~ Ked & Jan Leatherman
8 ~ John & Sandy Robinson
15 ~ Bill & Sandy Robertson
22 ~ David & Mary DeVries
29 ~ Laura Cochran

Ushers

1 ~ Fred & Karen Bradley
8 ~ Tom & Mona Jacobs
15 ~ Bob & Sharon Weaver
22 ~ Dennis & Laura Homminga
29 ~ Rich & Dianna Overmire

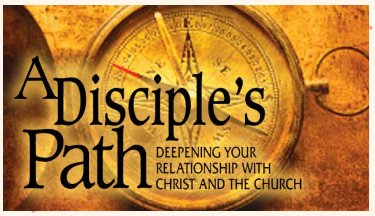
Worship Technician

1 ~ Dave DeVos
8 ~ Erin Benjamin
15 ~ Dave DeVos
22 ~ John Robinson
29 ~ Thom Kohl

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Adult Sunday School 12:00 - 6:00 pm Brann's Fundraiser 3:00 pm Adopt-A-Highway	2	3 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice	4 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Youth Group	5 10:00am UMW 5:30 pm Sisters In Spirit	6	7
8 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am UMCOM Survey Presentation	9 *Columbus Day* 4:30 pm Nominations Committee	10 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice	11 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm UMCOM Survey Presentation	12 6:30 pm Finanace Committee 7:15 pm Ad. Council	13	14 8:00 am Trustees
15 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Adult Bible Study 11:15 am Disciple's Path 12:00 - 6:00 pm Pizza Hut Fundraiser	16	17 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice	18 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Group	19 6:30 pm Endowment Committee	20	21
22 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Harvest Potluck 11:15 am Adult Sunday School 11:15 am Disciple's Path	23 7:00 pm SPRC	24 2:00 pm Visitation Committee 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice	25 9:30 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Women In Step 6:00 pm Pumpkin Carving	26 6:15 pm SPRC 7:00 pm Church Conference *Annual Mtg. of Church Members*	27	28
29 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Adult Sunday School 11:15 am Disciple's Path	30 6:30 pm Endowment Committee	31 5:00 - 8:00 pm Trunk or Treat 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice				

Trustee of the month
Gary Kidder

OCTOBER



A Disciple's Path: Want to take the next step in your faith and / or explore membership at CUMC? Join in this program that guides individuals in discipleship - becoming dynamic, engaged followers of Jesus Christ.

Participants will develop spiritual practices, discover their unique gifts, and become engaged in ministry that brings transformation in their own lives, the lives of others, and the world.

If you are interested in this six-week class, please contact Pastor Jodie. We will meet from October 15th thru November 19th following Sunday worship.

An updated phone directory is available in the Narthex,
or by contacting the church office at 891-8669.

Again this year we will be opening our church to the Caledonia community children and their families for Trick or Treating on **Tuesday, October 31st**. **Children trick or treat in the village between dusk and 8:00 pm**. There are some things that you can do to make this a fun filled evening.

Sign up to decorate a table and hand out treats. There will be prizes for the **scariest table**, the **best decorated table** and the **best treats**. The evening activities will begin at 5:00 pm and conclude by 8:00 pm.

A light supper of hotdogs, chips and a drink will be available free of charge between 5:00 - 6:00 pm. Coffee, hot chocolate and popcorn will be available throughout the evening.

There will be a drawing for prizes for the children.

We will also need help in the afternoon to setup and to make popcorn.

Please come out for a fun filled evening. If you would like to participate but do not drive at night call Chris at 455-7742 or the church office.

Operation Christmas Child

With the super warm weather we have been having lately it is really hard to think about Christmas; but, we must! **November 4th - 12th** will soon be upon us and we all need to be ready. These are the dates that we can bring our filled shoeboxes to church. Official flattened shoeboxes, labels and suggestions for packing a shoebox are on the back table in the sanctuary or in the church office. So **pick up a box** or 2 or 3 or more, follow the simple directions to **put the boxes together**, decide on the **age** and whether the box is for a **boy or a girl**, **pack the shoeboxes** with school supplies, small toys, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, small towel, hair brush, hair ribbons, play jewelry, socks, hats, t-shirts and simple dresses. Be creative. **Personalize** the box with a message, a little something about yourself and/or your e-mail address. **Say a prayer** for the child who will be receiving your box. **Include a check** for $9.00 for shipping and the printed Word.
Bring the box(es) to church November 4th - 12th.

To get **inspired**, go on the internet, type in "Operation Christmas Child", and read how this small box of love has enriched so many lives. You may also pay for the shipping online. You will receive a shipping label and tracking number. Print and attach the label to the shoebox before bringing them to church November 4th - 12th. With the tracking number you will be able to track where you box is going.

Operation Christmas Child is a mission that everyone, young and old, can participate in. If filling individual shoe boxes is overwhelming for you, you can **bring in supplies** for our shoebox packing night. While you are out shopping venture into other departments and pick up a few things for the boxes. You can also **write a check** to Samaritan's Purse for $9.00 or more. You can spend several hours **at church during the week of November 13th - 20th**. Our church is a relay/collection center where others in the Grand Rapids area can bring their individual boxes. We record them and pack them into cases. Most of all you can **pray**. Pray for the boxes to have a safe travel to their destination and most of all **pray for the children who will be receiving them.**

We are trying something new this year. **On Wednesday, November 8th from 6:00 - 7:30 pm** we are going to have a **Shoebox Packing Party**. Pizza, salad, drinks and dessert will be provided. Many hands make light work. This activity is **intergenerational**, so we hope to see you there.

I recently read about a woman who was born in 1916 and lives in an assisted living community. She was asked by her minister to help out with Operation Christmas Child. At first she asked herself "What can I do? I can't get out and about anymore." With the help of friends, family and church members who bring her supplies, she is sewing 100 sundresses to be packed into boxes this November.

CUMC's goal is to collect 150 boxes. OCC's 2017 goal is to reach 12 million children in over 100 countries! So please do your part.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, contact
Chris Hayden at 616-455-7742 or br2ch@comcast.net.

Partners in Prayer

October 14th through the 21st Caledonia United Methodist church is sending a work team to the Red Bird Mission in Beverly Kentucky.

We ask that you keep the team and those who will be helped during this week in your prayers. Some team members will be working in the Community Store and others will be involved in a building project on campus. The youth will have the opportunity to visit the seniors at the DeWall Senior Citizen Center. While there they will lead bingo and hand out prizes. They will also share lunch and fellowship with the seniors.

This is a week of work, fellowship and faith development. We are happy to be sending a multigenerational team to represent our church and put forth the work God calls us into mission to do.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

You can learn more at rbmission.org

Your Mission Team

Boy Scout Troop 202 welcomed Scouts back to school at the first Monday meeting in August.

Troop 202 is a boy-led troop which means every year we elect different boys to lead our troop and our individual patrols.

Scouts in our troop participated in several fun events over the summer. In late June, 10 Scouts and 7 adults earned their 50-miler award by canoeing 54 miles over 5 days on the Big Manistee River. Twenty eight Scouts and 11 adults attended our annual week of Summer Camp at Gerber Scout Reservation, earning a total of 104 Merit Badges. Seven Scouts traveled to the National Boy Scout Jamboree in West Virginia for some extreme Scouting fun which included white water rafting, zip lining, mountain biking and more. Labor Day weekend, our leadership Scouts camped out at Yankee Springs to plan our year and do some training.

Congratulations to Clay Hall for earning his Eagle Scout rank this September. Other Scouts who earned their Eagle award this year include Ryan Benjamin, Jacob Dunwoody, Daniel Kane, and Kevin Thomasma.

Troop 202 is grateful to the Caledonia United Methodist Church for their sponsorship and we look forward to celebrating our 60 years together in 2018.

Thank you to everyone who has been bringing in your D&W and Family Fare receipts. We are well on our way to earning $1,000 for CUMC just by doing our everyday shopping.

Reminder…. You must use your **"Yes Card"** in order for your receipt to be accepted by the Direct Your Dollars program.

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Caledonia, MI 49316

Once again we will be holding our annual
pumpkin carving night on
Wednesday, October 25th from 6:00-7:30pm.

Kids of all ages are welcome, as are the "**kids at heart**". Pumpkins will be provided, but please bring your own carving supplies, designs and ideas, and a snack to share.

Hope to see you there!!