

Caledonia United Methodist Church

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

*February 2018
Vision*



***Join us on Tuesday, February 13th
for food and fun!***



***We'll have the paczkis
and games.***

***The festivities begin at
5:30 pm in the
Fellowship Hall.***

Everything is provided.

As always, feel free to bring a friend!



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.



Love One Another

This Lent CUMC will be living out the instructions Jesus gave to his followers during the last evening Jesus spent with his disciples before his death on the cross.

³⁴ *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.* ³⁵ *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* ~ John 13:34-35 (New Revised Standard Version)

You will have several opportunities to share that love (see: "Breaking Our Hearts Open" in this Vision). Our goal is to have **100 individuals help share** the Love of Jesus between now and Easter.

Lent is also a wonderful time to focus on our relationship with Jesus Christ and becoming more like the person God is calling us to be. It is traditional to engage in a spiritual discipline during the 40 days of Lent (Ash Wednesday ~ February 14, 2018 through Easter ~ April 1, 2018, Sundays not included). The great thing is, many other Christians are doing the same ~ so we can encourage each other and build each other up in prayer ~ we don't have to go it alone and will-power can be borrowed from a friend!

Prayerfully consider the following suggestions, or come up with your own ~ picking more than one will most likely become overwhelming, sharing your goal with a friend will help both of you keep accountable.

- **Prayer:** chose to spend some time each day or week in prayer, remember to not only speak to God, but to listen. There is no "right" way to pray, just be honest with God. Be realistic, 10 minutes is good, an hour will allow you to really get into it, Bible reading can help guide your prayers.
- **Scripture:** again, set aside time to read the Bible. You may want pick a book or a study Bible to help guide you.
- **Gather with other Christians** (watch the bulletin for opportunities) or **read a Christian book**. Or spend more **intentional time with family** (or those who God has placed in your life who are like family).
- **Fasting / abstaining:** these are time tested ways of drawing us closer to God. Throughout history, people of faith have fasted (intentionally going without food for a meal or a day – check with your doctor if you have health considerations!) or abstaining from a particular food or activity. This discipline can serve one or more purposes: When we desire or crave something it can remind us to instead focus on God, prayer, Bible reading, etc. **We could redirect the resources of time, energy, or money toward something God is calling us to do, or toward building a healthier relationship with God and / or others.** People may ask why we are "not eating chocolate" or "drinking caffeine." What a wonderful opportunity to share our faith! Be prepared with a simple answer ("God has done so much for me." Or, "I'm trying to better live out my faith in Jesus.") as well as being open to what the Holy Spirit is leading you to say. Finally, it can be a way for us to honor God by moving toward living a healthier life.

Grace and Peace,

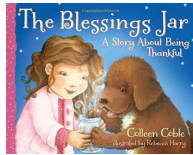
Pastor Jodie

From the Children's Library

The recommended books for this month are

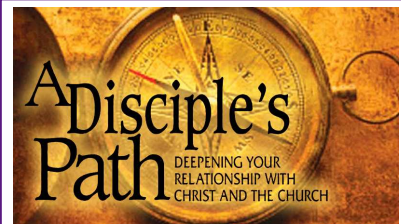
God Loves Daddy and Me by Rinnie Rickner

Jensen for ages toddler to 5 years



The Blessing Jar by Colleen Cable

for ages 3-8 years



Our final class will be after church, around 11:15 am, on February 11th.



Jason Mills **loves** to hear from his church family. We have learned that we are unable to use address labels on the envelopes we send.

More clarification is available at <http://www.michigan.gov/corrections>

Jason Mills #605840
West Shore Correctional Facility
2500 S. Sheridan
Muskegon, MI 49444

Please keep this in mind to avoid delays in his mail processing.



Samuel Norberg is in Freshman at Caledonia High School, and also attends Kent Innovation.

He participates in chess, Key Club, VEX Robotics, Boy Scouts, Next Level, and CUMC Youth Group.

Sam's favorites include:

Color: Cyan Food or special treat: Sushi

Animal: Deer Subject in school: Science

Thing about church: Sermons

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

YOUTH
of the Month



Breaking Our Hearts Open

Have you noticed the hearts around the church building? Several of these are broken open and have sign-up opportunities printed on them.

This Lent CUMC is focusing on Jesus' command to "Love One Another" (John 13:34). To live this out we are breaking our hearts open – open to let Jesus in, open to share the love of Christ with others. The following are ways you can participate. Sign-up on a broken heart or online at <http://signup.com/go/aSpUdJB>

Prayer Walk:

CUMC would like to offer a Prayer Walk during Holy Week (March 25th – 31st) for the community. This walk will offer a self guided journey through the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. We will need people to participate in the following: plan the walk (we have samples and ideas, similar to our Good Friday prayer walks we have offered the last 3 years) – 5-10 people; contact businesses and organizations in the community if we need to use their site – 2-3 people; builders and / or artists to create the "stations" throughout our community - 5-10 people. **Leader:** Pastor Jodie **Date: TBD (To Be Determined)**, planning team will meet in early February.

Dutton Elementary:

We asked what would be helpful and they responded: Provide treats and notes of encouragement for the teachers and staff at Dutton Elementary School. We may also place a box for prayer requests in the staff lounge. We will need people to help make treats and write notes. We may also need someone to pick up the prayer requests once a week. If we do the prayer box we will need a prayer team of 3-6 people. **Leader:** Laura Homminga and the CUMC "Wild and Free" Student Ministry (6-12 grade youth).

Davenport Resource Closet:

The Resource Closet at Davenport is a new service for students offering two resources: Dress clothes and accessories for interviews and non-perishable foods, home and personal products. This opportunity will be for 3-4 people to visit the Resource Closet and meet with the coordinator to learn about the needs of local college students and create a donation list. **Date: TBD-** week day AM or PM, 2 hours. **Leader:** Christine Spear

The Food Pantry (Kentwood)

The Food Pantry is located at John Knox Church on Kalamazoo near 44th; this pantry serves all of the Kentwood, Dutton and Cutlerville areas, including Gaines and Caledonia Twps. This opportunity is for 6-8 people who will work at the pantry re-bundling bulk foods, stocking shelves, working registration and sign-ups, or helping shoppers. **Date: TBD-** week day morning, 3-4 hours **Leader:** Christine Spear

Community Expo / Blessing Bags:

CUMC will once again have a table at the Caledonia Community Expo. In addition to having information about CUMC we will be guiding people who attend the Expo in making Blessing Bags.

Date: Saturday, February 24th, 9 am – 3 pm. We will need 2-3 people for each 2 hour time slot.

Leaders: Sharon Burkart & Steve Kepsel.

Breaking Our Hearts Open - Continued



Boston Square Community Bikes (Grand Rapids)

Boston Square Bikes is a community bike repair and store located at 1260 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Grand Rapids. This program repairs and refurbishes bikes and parts. Program participants can volunteer at the center to earn a bike and take classes on bike maintenance and repair. The center also sells bikes and parts at low cost. This opportunity is for 8-10 people who will be taught everything they need to know to tackle the jobs that need to be done. The jobs can vary from sweeping and cleaning up to painting donated bikes, patching tire tubes, greasing chains and bearings, etc. No experience is necessary; just a friendly face and a willingness to work. **Leader:** TBD **Coordinator:** Christine Spear

Date: TBD – requested a Saturday afternoon; if not available, then weekday between 2pm and 6pm

Circles Meal (Trinity UM Church, Grand Rapids)

Circles is a long-term approach to **end poverty permanently in our community**. Each week, local families working to overcome poverty (Circle Leaders) meet with community volunteers (Allies) over dinner. Following the meal, Circle Leaders work with their Allies to achieve specific personal goals toward self-reliance. Over time, incomes and savings improve, debt and public assistance decrease, and supportive social networks are built. CUMC will be providing a meal for one of the weekly meetings. We will need people to provide food, prepare food, deliver and serve the meal and do some light clean up. **Date: Evening of March 12th** **Leader:** Pat Schenk

God's Country Cooperative Parish (GCCP) is in the eastern part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It covers a 2500 square mile area from Engadine near Lake Michigan, up to Paradise at Whitefish Bay, to Grand Marais on Lake Superior's south shore and encompasses McMillan, Germfask, Newberry and Hulbert. Although it is located in some of the most beautiful country you could ever hope to see, the isolation, extremely harsh long winters, and scarcity of jobs bring real challenges to these churches and the communities they serve. Unlike our more densely populated areas where you might find another United Methodist church within a few miles, these churches can be up to 100 miles from their sister churches in the Cooperative. Yet these seven communities of faith combine their resources, share their faith and, through their active presence, work to bring self esteem, hope and faith to all God's children throughout their vast parish. On **Sunday, March 18th** our guest preacher will be Randy Hildebrant (the missionary assigned to GCCP) and afterward you will be able to explore a work team / mission trip opportunity. **Leader:** CUMC Mission Team

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Our goal is to have 100 individuals help share the Love of Jesus between now and Easter.

If you have any questions please contact the group leader or Pastor Jodie.

Sign-up online <http://signup.com/go/aSpUdJB> or on a "heart" at the back of the sanctuary.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 ~ Sethe Bovee | 14 ~ Ruth Klingensmith |
| 2 ~ Evan Johnson | ~ Laura Knight |
| ~ Donna Lanning | 18 ~ Ethan Burd |
| 3 ~ Ernie Schenk | 21 ~ Blake Benjamin |
| 4 ~ Judy DeVry | 22 ~ Karen Hahn |
| 6 ~ Amanda Claflin | 27 ~ Andy Austin |
| 10 ~ Cade Handley | |
| 12 ~ Rachelle Johnson | |
| 13 ~ Sharon Bailey | |



Happy Anniversary

- | |
|--------------------------|
| 4 ~ David & Mary DeVries |
| 6 ~ Bob & Anne Lillie |
| 28 ~ Thom & Patti Kohl |



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

Trustee of the Month
Scott Handley

Worship Leaders

Acolyte

- | |
|---------------------|
| 4 ~ Blake Benjamin |
| 11 ~ Tzila Handley |
| 18 ~ Andrew Cherpes |
| 25 ~ Tzila Handley |

Coffee Hour

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 4 ~ Scout Troop 202 |
| 11 ~ Scott Handley |
| 18 ~ Rich & Dianna Overmire |
| 25 ~ |

Counters

- | |
|---------------------------------|
| 4 ~ Jon & Jean VanDenBeldt |
| 11 ~ Jim & Ruth Klingensmith |
| 18 ~ Barb Scott & Shirley Tolan |
| 25 ~ Mona Jacobs & Vicki Young |

Hospitality

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| 4 ~ Jon & Jean VanDenBeldt |
| 11 ~ Pauline Brower & Jean Soest |
| 18 ~ Don & Bernie Overholt |
| 25 ~ Mark & Barb Freeman |

Liturgist

- | |
|---------------------|
| 4 ~ Scout Troop 202 |
| 11 ~ Tex Bryant |
| 18 ~ Patti Faist |
| 25 ~ Steve Kepsel |

Nursery

- | |
|----------------------|
| 4 ~ Shirley Besteman |
| 11 ~ Eliz Gundlach |
| 18 ~ Karen Bradley |
| 25 ~ Nancy Kinney |

Sunday School

- | |
|-------------------|
| 4 ~ Steve Kepsel |
| 11 ~ Nancy Duiven |
| 18 ~ Mona Jacobs |
| 25 ~ Nancy Duiven |

Ushers

- | |
|------------------------------|
| 4 ~ Scout Troop 202 |
| 11 ~ Dennis & Laura Homminga |
| 18 ~ Tom & Mona Jacobs |
| 25 ~ Rich & Dianna Overmire |

Worship Technician

- | |
|--------------------|
| 4 ~ John Robinson |
| 11 ~ Erin Benjamin |
| 18 ~ Thom Kohl |
| 25 ~ Erin Benjamin |

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:15 am UMW 6:00 pm Sisters In Spirit 6:30 pm Scout Planning	2 	3
4 10:00 am Worship <i>Scout Sunday</i> 11:15 am "1/2 Truths" Study 12:00 - 6:00 pm Brann's Fundraiser	5 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	7 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	8 6:30 pm Finance Committee 7:15 pm Ad. Council	9	10 8:00 am Trustees
11 10:00 am Worship <i>Holy Communion</i> 11:15 am Disciple's Path 11:15 am "John" Study	12 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	13 10:00 am Quilt Group 5:30 pm Fat Tuesday Party 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	14  7:30 - 8:30 am Imposition of the Ashes 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	15	16	17
18 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am "John" Study 12:00 - 6:00 pm Pizza Hut Fundraiser	19 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	20 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	21 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	22	23	24 10am - 2pm Caledonia Community Expo at Duncan Lake Middle School
25 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am "John" Study 6:30 pm Scouts God & Church	26 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC	27 10:00 am Quilt Group 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Bells 7:00 pm Choir	28 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry			



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



Happy New Year! The Scouts are excited to be back from the holidays and are ready to tackle more rank advancements and merit badges.



We invited the Girls Scouts to our Christmas party where we ate lots of sweet snacks and held an Ugly Christmas Sweater contest. The photo shows our two winners. We had a contingent of Scouts travel to Camp Munhackle this January to participate in a Winter Hike and Camp Antarctica. Finally, we have several scouts who will begin work on their Religious Emblems. These are optional, additional emblems they may earn when they complete extra work that is within the teachings of their church.

The boys and parents of Troop 202 have been praying, and ask that you join us in praying, for Mr. Bob Battey and his family.

Mr. Battey is our Scoutmaster and he has recently been diagnosed with cancer. As he deals with his treatments and recovery, his brother, Mr. Dave Battey, has offered to take over as Scoutmaster. Thank you Mr. Dave Battey! We pray for the spiritual and physical well-being of the entire Battey family.



The UMW will meet on Thursday, February 1st, at 9:15 am at the church. We will then carpool to volunteer at Kids' Food Basket.



Women In Step will not meet during the month of February.



Sisters In Spirit (SIS) is just that....a group of fun loving, working women that meet monthly for dinner out, supporting each other with God's love and care.

Sisters In Spirit will meet Tuesday February 1st at 6:00 pm.

Please contact Karen Bradley at 616-901-6383, for more details.

Partners in Prayer



Clara Mridula Biswas is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as a community worker in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She works with the 'poorest of the poor,' especially children, in slum areas and garbage dumps to facilitate their transfers to relocation and rehabilitation centers.

The program supports 620 students in public schools by providing classes in such areas as music, computer science, and art. It offers Sunday school and conducts Christmas and Easter programs each year. A health component refers patients to hospitals and non-governmental organization (NGO) health centers. Clara has worked for a long time with a church at one of the dumpsites, and now also works with the Berung Kok Methodist Church in Phnom Penh's large slum area of Toul Kork, which is near the railway station and similar to the dumpsite areas. She also networks with other churches and NGOs, as well as visiting, monitoring, and caring for patients.



Prior to her commissioning as a missionary, Clara was in Bangladesh with Food for the Hungry International (FHI), a Christian service group based in the United States. As the community development area manager, she served the poor, lower caste, and oppressed by supervising, managing, and monitoring education and development programs from 1983 to 1998. Clara also served as the program director of the Christian student center at Sendai City in Japan. She emphasized issues of justice, development, international understanding, worship, and equality from a Christian perspective.

Born in Barisal, Bangladesh, Clara holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science and a diploma in rural leadership and development from the Asian Rural Institute in Tochigi-Ken, Japan. She is a member of the Church of Bangladesh, a united denomination.

Contact Information:

<https://www.umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service>

E-mail: ClaraBiswas@online.com.kh

Make an online donation to: Clara Mridula Biswas #13952Z

Missionary Support Code: 13952Z

Caledonia United Methodist Church
250 Vine Street
Caledonia, MI 49316

Communion for the month
of February will be offered
on Sunday, February 11th.



Each Tuesday from February 20th through March 20th and on Holy Thursday, March 29th (6 weeks) you are invited for a soup supper.
They will begin at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Soup, salad, bread, desserts, and beverages will be served. There is no charge, but free will donations will be accepted. Bring a friend and join us as we make the Lenten journey together.