



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 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 signups, or helping shoppers. **Date: Thursday, March 8, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.** **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:** Fred Bradley **Coordinator:** Christine Spear
Date: Saturday, March 17: 2pm - 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 Hildebrandt (the missionary assigned to GCCP) and afterward you will be able to explore a work team / mission trip opportunity. **Leader:** CUMC Mission Team

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)

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.