



250 Vine Street Caledonia, MI 49316 616-891-8669

Pastor Jodie Flessner

Serve, Strengthen and Connect

All are welcome in God's house.

We are a Community who firmly believes in God's word. Come journey with us! We want to both invite you and welcome you to the United Methodist Church in Caledonia. We pray that you will find in us a welcoming fellowship and a worshipping congregation that lifts Christ in praise. It is our hope that we make a difference in this community and that through our ministry Christ's love is made alive daily and in many different ways. If you would like to share in our fellowship, you are invited to come. If there is some way in which we can be of service to you or your family, please contact the church office.

Programs and Fellowship Opportunities

United Methodist Women (UMW) The UMW's purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 am on the lower level in the Fellowship Hall. Every other month we volunteer at the Kid's Food Basket in Grand Rapids instead of having a meeting. Membership shall be open to any woman who indicates her desire to belong and to participate in the global mission of the church through the UMW. If interested in joining or volunteering, please contact Betty Bourn 616-765-3483

Women In Step - Women In Step was formed as a fellowship/support group for widows in our congregation. With our church family supporting us, we decided to welcome all women of all ages in the congregation to join us. We help our church combining fun with purpose. We meet the last Wednesday of each month at a local restaurant for a business meeting. We are Disciples of Christ and Serve, Strengthen and Connect to spread God's word with insight and friendship.

What we do to **SERVE**: Work with UMW (United Methodist Women) with kitchen organizing and supplies, using our skills/abilities to help where needed. Organize and handle the funeral luncheons for our church family and the community when requested. Work with the Trustee Committee to financially support maintenance and upkeep of our church facilities.

What we do to **STRENGTHEN**: Meet monthly to check on our progress and coverage for our event activities. Plan fellowship activities. Conduct fundraising to support our church family and community. Easter and Christmas flower sales. Participate in as many activities that we can and are able to.

What we do to **CONNECT**: Organize and run our Annual 2nd Best Sale; wrapping gifts with the Santa Claus Girls; and support the Lenten Soup Suppers.

If you have any questions, please contact Jayne Porritt for more information 616-891-8633.

Sisters in Spirit (SIS) is just that....a group of fun loving, working women that meet monthly for dinner, supporting each other with God's love and care. We are all busy but do manage to pack candy bags for Western Week and hand those out and water, along with other church ministries. Participants vary as to everyone's schedule. Check the church calendar for dinner times and places. Please contact Karen Bradley at 616-901-6383 for more information.

Music Ministry-The goal of the music ministry at Caledonia United Methodist Church is to inspire a faith-filled community at worship as we pray, ring and sing with the talents God has given to us.

We are blessed with a three octave Bell set and a 2 octave Hand Chime set. The bell choir rings both of these instruments when needed. We meet at 6pm-7pm Tuesdays September through May. Being able to read music is not required but helpful. The Bell choir usually rings at worship once a month and special holidays.

The Chancel Choir meets at 7pm-8pm on Tuesdays and usually sings weekly September through May, with occasional Sundays "off". One highlight of the Chancel Choir is our Christmas Cantata presented during the worship service one Sunday in December. Easter Sunday is another time the Bell Choir and Chancel Choirs share their gifts.

The Ensemble participates in worship 3-4 times per calendar year and provides a contemporary sound to our worshipping community. If you play an instrument or enjoy solo work, this group would be for you.

Summer Worship consists of volunteer musicians who provide special music while the choirs are in summer recess.

All music groups are under the direction of Rose Manby, Director of Music Ministries. Questions? 616 281 5607 or ramjet625@att.net

Bible Studies At Caledonia United Methodist Church we look for many ways to explore the Bible and our faith as we walk through our journey in life. Through Bible studies and classes, we look to learn from Bible and how we can relate it to our lives now. We search for answers that sometimes just lead to more questions. Come and explore with us, all are welcome. Our Bible studies our throughout the year please check with the church office for a current or upcoming study.

Adult Sunday School begins 15 minutes following worship. You are invited to get a cup of coffee, a snack and join us for Sunday school. We will be meeting in the downstairs classroom. The only book you will need to bring is your Bible. During our time together, we will be reading aloud the scriptures and discussing how they are relevant to us in today's world. Bibles are provided.

It is said about our ancestors in the faith, John and Charles Wesley believed scripture is like the breath that gives life to our faith journey. Biblical teaching was given to us to shape our thoughts, beliefs, feelings and behaviors. By reading, studying, pondering and discussing scripture, we are able to hear God's voice, share in God's grace, and become more like Jesus. Please make plans to join us as we journey together with class leaders Sharon Burkart 269-967-0301 and Steve Kepsel 269-804-8944.

Sunday School Elementary children grade K - 5 are invited to Sunday School during Sunday morning service during the school year. In the summer, there are special activities for kids in weekly worship. In addition, we have activities monthly throughout the year for kids (and sometimes their families as well). Those who wish to remain in the sanctuary for service may utilize activity bags located in the back of the Sanctuary. Family involvement in Youth Ministry is important to us and we start that early by holding events for our elementary school children and their families. Whether it's Christmas in July, an open gym night, or Pumpkin Carving, we have a BLAST growing together as a church family while providing safe bonding time for children and their families. Those who are interested in volunteering must follow the requirements of the Child Protection Policy. For more information, contact Nancy Duiven at grannyd2@.charter.net

Wild and Free is a youth group for anyone in 6th-12th grade. We meet in the church on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30. In this time, we share in a lesson, some fun games, and fellowship with other Christians. In this group, we accept everyone for who they are, and strive to create a positive, safe environment where youth feel comfortable being themselves. The goal is to do all of these things while growing closer to God, and each other. To be a part of our group we do not ask or expect that you are a perfect Christian, or a perfect person. We do ask that you come with an open mind, and a willingness to grow (or start) a relationship with Jesus Christ. For more information, contact Laura Homminga at calumcyouth@gmail.com

Missions Caledonia UMC 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.

The United Methodist book of Social Principles states, "The foundation of Christian living is faith in Christ. Faith is the central loyalty that give purpose and direction to our lives." It states further "faith does not happen overnight, it's a journey. From birth to death, we are growing in faith. There are ups and downs, and sometimes long flat stretches where we seem to be stalled in our journey. But little by little our relationship with God deepens." Now we must also remember what it says in James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." Which I believe is telling us that the faith we develop through our journey called life is a gift that we are called to share by participating in the world around us. It is our choice to be the hands, feet and voice for God at this moment in time. Please contact Sharon Burkart 269-967-0301 for mission projects and opportunities to volunteer.

Prayer Requests There are several ways to request prayers. Prayer requests can be made orally during worship service, you can complete a prayer request card and put it in the prayer box (both located in the back of the sanctuary), e-mail Judy Kidder to have your prayer request included in the e-mail prayer chain (jkidder30@charter.net), or contact the office to have your request placed in the weekly bulletin.

Our Church History

1875 - David Kinsey deeded land in Caledonia, at the corner of Church and Main Streets, to the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Methodists purchased and relocated the old Caledonia school building to this property to be their first church.

1896 - This first building was moved to Mill Street and became the property of the village of Caledonia. It still stands as storage. A new church was constructed on the Kinsey property at the corner of Church and Main Streets.

1900 - On New Year's Eve, a mortgage burning ceremony was held for the new building on the Kinsey property. This building was in continuous use until 1963.

1960 - Land for a new church was purchased on Vine Street in Caledonia.

1962 - September 16, groundbreaking ceremonies for a new church were held. Construction began immediately.

1963 - Easter Sunday, April 14, the first service was held in the Vine Street church. The cost of the building was \$69,111, with a great deal of work being done by the members themselves.

1970 - In November, a mortgage burning ceremony was held for the Vine Street Church. This same building is our church home today.

1980 - Plans were drawn up for the construction of a new parsonage at 260 Vine Street, property owned by the church and adjacent to the existing church building.

1981, the house was completed; and the pastor and family moved into the new and spacious four-bedroom house, which still serves as home to the church's pastors and families.

2005 - After just three years, a new building site on Kraft Avenue was paid off; and once again, the church is looking to expand with bricks and mortar, with program, and with the love of Christ.

2011 – The church installed new boilers

2013 – New windows were added to the office and classrooms, Sanctuary chairs and pew cushions were added.

2014 – New roof and windows in the Fellowship Hall and Entry

2015 – The parsonage had a new boiler installed

2016 – Technology was updated for the sound booth, Sanctuary storm windows were installed, a new well was dug and the parking lots were repaved.