
Vision

November 2019

Annual Harvest Potluck

Sunday, November 17, 2019 after church.

Ham will be provided by the UMW.

Bring a dish to pass and
your own table service.



Serving ~ Strengthening ~ Connecting ~ Our Community

- ~ **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

As we enter November, I find myself reflecting on the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Usually when it comes to Thanksgiving, I reflect on everything that I'm thankful for: family, friends, pets, health, and opportunities that I have been given. I give thanks to God for everything in my life that has held and nurtured me and helped me grow over the past year.

This year, though, I find myself reflecting on the idea of giving. In worship we have a time of offering, and we invite people to give with these words: "Now let us give back a portion of what we have received from God." The idea is we are given blessings from God, and so we give back to God, as an offering of thanksgiving, praise, and commitment to do the work of the kingdom of the world.

I'll be honest, when it comes to giving in the church, and especially giving during offering time, we tend to think of monetary giving. We all know that, traditionally, we're asked to give a 10% tithe to the church in order to support ministries that the church does. We've all sat through the stewardship campaigns and have filled out pledge cards where we've committed ourselves to giving a X amount of dollars for the year. Yet, while monetary giving is certainly necessary to do the business of the church, giving goes beyond just our money.

When we become members of the United Methodist Church we pledge to uphold the church by our "prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness." In other words, we promise to give much more than our money. We commit ourselves, as members of Christ's body in this thing called the United Methodist Church, to give well-roundedly. We commit ourselves to give our prayers, for our congregation, church, community and world. We commit ourselves to give our presence, by showing up in service on Sunday mornings, in Sunday school, in small groups, or just when we are needed with each other. We commit ourselves to give our gifts, which is more than money! We are all given spiritual gifts, some are called to preachers, others teachers, others are called to be servants in the world, and so we commit to using the spiritual gifts God has given us in order to do the work of the kingdom. We commit to giving service, to being with the world, whether it looks like volunteering at Children's Food Basket, going on a mission trip, or doing the work of the church, like serving communion or doing attendance. We also commit to giving our witness, which means sharing the story of God at work in our lives and why we choose to follow Jesus. There are so many ways to give in the life of the church.

Pastor's Page

So, in this season I invite you to think of the ways you can give to the church. Where can you give back to God through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness? What are you being called to do in the life of the church? What commitment can you make for the upcoming year?

I leave you with these words from one of my favorite Christmas Hymns, "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Christina Rossetti:

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

Pastor Elizabeth



What happens at Wild & Free Student Ministry?

You might be surprised!

Our youth recently studied Galatians 2:16-21
and discussed following rules vs. following Jesus.

They discovered they obey Jesus out of love and commitment rather than a need to earn God's acceptance.

They discussed how a well rounded faith understands that we can do nothing to be made more righteous before God, and that the good things we do should be an outflow of our gratitude for Jesus' love and sacrifice.

We obey God's law and live for him not because it buys us acceptance but because Jesus set an example for us to follow.



There will be no Wild & Free Student Ministry
on Wednesday, November 27th
due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Gavin Wolbert is a Sophomore at Caledonia High School.

Gavin participates in baseball, concert band and symphonic band. His favorite subject in school is Chemistry. He also enjoys guitar, skateboarding and video games.

Some of his other favorites include:

Food: Fajitas Color: Blue

The thing that stands out to Gavin about Caledonia UMC is the loving, nonjudgmental space he experiences as he is involved in the weekly Wild & Free Student Ministry meetings and events.

Take a moment to say “hello” next time you see Gavin at church or out in the community!



Harvest Festival

A big thank you is extended to
Erin, Blake & Brody Benjamin, Lynda Bohley,
Nancy Duiven, Pam Garza, Chris Hayden,
Laura Homminga, Judy Kidder, Nancy Kinney,
Thom Kohl & Mike Sackett

for their help with a very successful Harvest Festival!

We had the kids draw a face on a paper cup and plant grass seeds inside the cup. We told them they could give their “person” a hair cut after the seeds started growing. This was to advertise our Community Garden and we got a great response from both kids and parents. We hope to see more community involvement in 2020 from this effort.

Thanks so much once again for our great helpers.



We are looking for volunteers to help serve Communion. We serve communion on the first Sunday of each month. This simply involves providing a couple more hands to hold the bread and juice. If you are interested in helping please contact the church office at 616-891-8669.

Caledonia UMC is able to receive contributions from purchases you make through [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com).



****Note: You must use the [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) site, and not the standard Amazon site.****

If you have any questions please contact Erin in the church office at 616.891.8669 and she will be glad to help you through the process. Below are some questions answered by Amazon regarding their AmazonSmile program.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 ~ Bill Robertson | 25 ~ Loralynne Clark |
| 7 ~ Liam Homminga | ~ Julie Makarewicz |
| 9 ~ Becca Knight | 26 ~ John Robinson |
| 11 ~ Tyler Mills | ~ Alex Schenk |
| 15 ~ Hailey Cherpes | 27 ~ Everett Kolar |
| 17 ~ Paul Seper | 30 ~ Karen Bradley |
| 20 ~ Adrian Olree | ~ Gary Huerth |
| 24 ~ Barb Freeman | |
| ~ Jake Schenk | |

Happy Anniversary

- 3 ~ Rich & Dianna Overmire
 8 ~ Mark & Barb Freeman
 18 ~ Todd & Denise Brown

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



Worship Leaders

<div style="border: 1px solid white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Trustee of the Month Ernie Schenk </div>	<p><u>Coffee Hour</u> <i>(set up and clean up)</i></p> <p>3 ~ <i>Volunteers Needed</i></p> <p>10 ~ <i>Volunteers Needed</i></p> <p>17 ~ Harvest Potluck</p> <p>24 ~ <i>Volunteers Needed</i></p>	<p><u>Counters</u></p> <p>3 ~ Jim & Jayne Porritt & Vicki Young</p> <p>10 ~ Joan Pierce & Sharon Weaver</p> <p>17 ~ Donna Lanning & Penny Overholt</p> <p>24 ~ <i>Volunteers Needed</i></p>
<p><u>Hospitality</u></p> <p>3 ~ <i>Volunteers Needed</i></p> <p>10 ~ <i>Volunteers Needed</i></p> <p>17 ~ <i>Volunteers Needed</i></p> <p>24 ~ <i>Volunteers Needed</i></p>	<p><u>Liturgist</u></p> <p>3 ~ Steve Kepsel</p> <p>10 ~ Joan Pierce</p> <p>17 ~ Donna Lanning</p> <p>24 ~ Joyce Gackler</p>	<p><u>Nursery</u></p> <p>3 ~ Karen Bradley</p> <p>10 ~ Nancy Kinney</p> <p>17 ~ <i>Volunteers Needed</i></p> <p>24 ~ <i>Volunteers Needed</i></p>
<p><u>Sunday School</u></p> <p>3 ~ Erin Benjamin</p> <p>10 ~ Nancy Duiven</p> <p>17 ~ Erin Benjamin</p> <p>24 ~ Barb Snyder</p>	<p><u>Ushers</u></p> <p>3 ~ Bob & Anne Lillie</p> <p>10 ~ John & Sandy Robinson</p> <p>17 ~ Owen & Sherill Fahrni</p> <p>24 ~ Fred & Karen Bradley</p>	<p><u>Worship Technician</u></p> <p>3 ~ John Robinson</p> <p>10 ~ Mike Sackett</p> <p>17 ~ Thom Kohl</p> <p>24 ~ Erin Benjamin</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>All Saints' Day</i>	2
3  <i>Daylight Savings Ends</i> 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Brann's Fundraiser	4 12:00 pm "The Wesley Challenge" Study 7:00 pm Scouts	5 6:00 pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	6 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	7 10:15 am UMW 3:00 pm Funeral 6:30 pm Scout Planning	8	9 8:00 am Trustees
10 10:00 am Worship 4:30 pm Ice Cream Social	11 <i>Veterans' Day</i> 12:00 pm "The Wesley Challenge" Study 1:30 pm Outreach Committee 6:30 pm Garden Committee 7:00 pm Scouts	12 1:00 pm Pieceful Quilters 6:00 pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	13 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	14 9:15 am Women In Step Santa Claus Girls 6:30 pm Finance Committee	15	16 1:30 - 4:00 pm Notepad Worship
17 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Harvest Potluck 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm Pizza Hut Fundraiser	18 7:00 pm Scouts	19 6:00 pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	20 9:30 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Women In Step 6:00 pm Wild & Free Student Ministry	21 6:30 pm SPRC	22	23 10:30 am Choir Practice
24 10:00 am Worship	25 6:30 pm Book Club 7:00 pm Scouts	26 9:00 am Pieceful Quilters 6:00 pm Handbell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	27 9:30 am Staff Meeting	28 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 	29	30



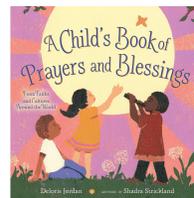
The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a workshop on Saturday, November 16 from 1:30 - 4:00 pm. We will be making sticky notepad covers to give to the staff at Dutton Elementary School.

You do not have to stay for the entire time. You can come and go at your convenience. So come join us for fun and fellowship.

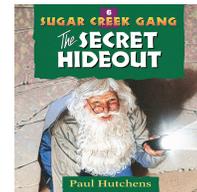
The featured book this month for the early elementary school age is a new addition to the library. The book is “In My Heart: A Book About Feelings” by Jo Witek.



The later elementary featured book is “A Child’s Book of Prayers and Blessings” by Delores Jordan.

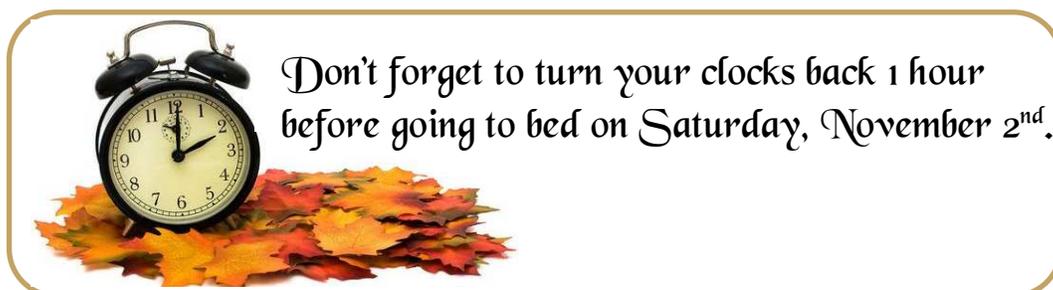


The middle/senior high school featured book is “The Secret Hideout” by Paul Hutchens.



Women In Step will meet at noon on Wednesday, November 20th at American Legion Post 305 in Caledonia.

The **United Methodist Women** will meet at 10:15 am on Thursday, October 7th In the Fellowship Hall at the church.





Did you know there is an adult library in the church?

Do you know where it is? (*I'll give you a hint... it's in the conference room which is adjacent to Erin Benjamin's office*).

There are a lot of very interesting books there waiting to be read. There are devotionals, reference books, Bible studies, different versions of the Bible and fictional books... just to name a few. Check it out!

MEET THE AUTHOR



Members from the Book Club met and had tea with local author Barbara Bull this month in Shelby Michigan. The club discussed her book "Cloud Cottage" and learned much about herself and the areas history.

There are 5 books in the series and the club has purchased the next four. If you're interested in reading her books contact one of the members of the Book Club to get a copy. There are plans on returning to visit Barbara and discuss the rest of the series sometime next year.

The club is also planning a trip to Owosso in the spring to visit Curwood Castle on the Shiawassee River. Where local author James Oliver Curwood wrote his adventure novels.

If your interested in joining the Book Club or going on our adventures please contact Chris Hayden or Nancy Duiven to get more details.



The United Methodist Women are a mission oriented division of the United Methodist Church. Our membership meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am in the basement of the Church and everyone is welcome to attend and join. Four times a year, instead of a meeting, we volunteer at Kids

Food Basket helping to feed low income students within the Grand Rapids area. Once a year, we also determine which non-profit organizations we will sponsor with donations of anywhere between \$500 - \$2,000. UMW has just made that determination and we would like everyone to be aware of what groups we are sponsoring this year.

- United Methodist Community House
- Midwest District of UMW
- Kids' Food Basket
- Access 6
- Wedgewood
- Pet Project
- Wesley Foundation
- God's Country Cooperative Parish (G.C.C.P.)
- Soaring Unlimited
- Fruit Baskets for Church Members
- UMCOR Hygiene Kits
- Camp for 6 children through UM Community House

Dear Church Family,

WOW! I'm overwhelmed with all the love, support, cards, visits, soups, gifts and calls. Although, I'm not any better, I just want you to know how much I appreciate you all. Hopefully, soon I can be able to talk without pain and eat normal food again.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and I ask for continued prayers.

Blessings,
Jayne Porritt



Women In Step will again be selling poinsettias as a fundraiser in December. Look for more details in upcoming worship bulletins.



Our Advent mission project will start early this year so the recipients will receive their gifts in time for Christmas. An Angel Tree, set up in the Sanctuary, will provide Christmas presents for the children of several families at God's Country Cooperative Parish (G.C.C.P.).



The Christmas Eve offering will be equally divided between G.C.C.P. to purchase gas cards for their clients and Scholastic Books gift certificates to the teachers at Dutton Elementary.

Many communities in the Upper Peninsula are quite far apart. Quite a few of them are lucky to have a gas station, grocery store and post office. Traveling 50 miles or more to the doctor or to see a medical specialist can be a strain on a family budget. When you have to make the long trip the price of gas gets expensive. G.C.C.P. provides gas gift cards for those in need.

As we learned in October, much of the materials and equipment in a classroom is provided by the teacher. It is important to provide extra books in the classroom so children can practice their reading skills. Scholastic Books gift certificates will help the teachers at Dutton Elementary School buy these books.



THANK YOU very much for your generous giving in September. \$867.00 was divided equally between the staff at Dutton Elementary School and the United Methodist Student Day.

Caledonia United Methodist Church
250 Vine Street
Caledonia, MI 49316

WHAT IF YOU
WOKE UP
today
WITH ONLY THE
THINGS YOU
THANKED GOD FOR
yesterday