

Caledonia United Methodist Church
250 Vine Street
Caledonia, MI 49316



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Vision

August 2020

Thursday Devotionals

Each Thursday at 9:30 am, we will be broadcasting a devotional on Facebook, either live or pre-recorded. Join us live, or watch on Facebook at a later time.



We are hoping to cultivate a group who will take on one devotional per month. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Elizabeth at pastor.elizabeth@caledoinaumc.org. The devotionals do not have to be original, they can be ones that you found and that have resonated with you. If you are interested but do not have the technological capacity to record or stream yourself, contact Thom Kohl, who is willing to work with you.

The **CUMC Book Club** will meet on Monday, August 24 at 3:00 pm at Nancy Duiven's home, 9100 84th Street, Alto.



We will read and discuss *The Seven Sisters* by Lucinda Riley.

We meet for 1 - 1 1/2 hours and have a lively discussion about the book and enjoy great fellowship. Light refreshments are provided. *All are welcome to attend.*

Please contact Nancy or the church office for more information.

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.

I feel like the month of July was filled with all things Caledonia Community Garden. Our interns, Meg and Carter, worked tirelessly to organize a You Pick! Day out at the Garden. It was a successful day, with 25 people stopping by in our three hour span. Then they led a worship service celebrating this ministry that Caledonia UMC offers to our community. It was a beautiful weekend of living into the ministry of the Garden.

When I first found out I was coming to pastor Caledonia UMC, I, like anybody would, Googled this church to get a sense of what to expect. When I read that about the Community Garden, I was excited. When I came in May of 2019 to co-lead worship with Jodie, I made a stop by the Community Garden and was, honestly, surprised at how big it was. See, when I read about the Garden, I was picturing a few beds of some basic vegetables, like tomatoes and lettuce. But to see the Garden (which really strikes me as more like a small farm) in person was awe inspiring. “Wow,” I thought, “What a great resource for this community. What a beautiful ministry opportunity this church has. I can’t wait to work with it.”

It’s funny, I’m not much of a gardener myself. Just look at the sad excuse for a garden outside the parsonage for proof. But what I am all for is new ways of doing ministry, particularly as we move into the 21st century. Church looks different, and it has looked different, even before we moved into a pandemic time. Many mourn the loss of the time when church was an expectation. When you’d walk out the door, dressed in your best, and wave to your neighbors who were also dressed in their best. When pews were filled and you could hear the cries of babies and laughter of children. That’s not our reality anymore. And if we try to do ministry in a way that fits that reality? We’re only going to end up disappointed.

So, church has to adapt. Ministry has to change. And here at Caledonia UMC we have a way of doing ministry that is *different* than any other church in the area. That’s the Garden.

I have found that the Garden has brought me hope in these pandemic days. When we are unable to meet indoors, we can come together to plant seeds and vegetables. When we can’t gather around a table, we can gather around a garden bed. When we can’t take communion together, we can pluck carrots and beets and radishes up from the ground and use them to nourish our bodies. The very fact that we have a space where we can be with Creation, tending to the Earth, interacting with God is so amazing. The fact that we can share this space with our community is also amazing. It is a way to reach new people that we should be excited to live into.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>August</div>						1
2 <div>10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Virtual Coffee Hour 12:00 - 6:00 pm Brann's Fundraiser</div>	3	4	5 <div>9:30 am Staff Meeting</div>	6 <div>9:30 am Online Devotions</div> <div></div>	7	8 <div>8:00 am Trustees</div>
9 <div>10:00 am Worship</div>	10 <div>7:00 pm Prayer Walk at Caledonia Lakeside Park</div> <div></div>	11 <div>9:00 am Pieceful Quilters</div>	12 <div>9:30 am Staff Meeting</div>	13 <div>9:30 am Online Devotions 6:30 pm Finance 7:15 pm Ad. Council</div>	14	15
16 <div>10:00 am Worship 12:00 - 6:00 pm Pizza Hut Fundraiser</div>	17	18	19 <div>9:30 am Staff Meeting</div>	20 <div>9:30 am Online Devotions</div>	21	22 <div></div>
23 <div>10:00 am Worship</div>	24 <div>3:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm SPRC</div>	25 <div>9:00 am Pieceful Quilters</div>	26 <div>9:30 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Women In Step</div>	27 <div>9:30 am Online Devotions</div>	28	29
30	31					

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

- 1 ~ Maisie Klingensmith

4 ~ Jean VanDenBeldt

5 ~ Millie Porritt

6 ~ Andrew Brown

~ Celia Salmon

9 ~ Sharon Mortensen

10 ~ Brandon Furtwangler

13 ~ Karl Seper

~ Kennedy Wolbert
- 16 ~ Mike Bowman

19 ~ Mona Jacobs

20 ~ Sandy Robinson

25 ~ Jan Leatherman

~ Jayne Porritt

27 ~ Denise Brown

28 ~ David Knight

29 ~ Mandi Cherpes

31 ~ Rose Manby
- 1 ~ Josh & Rose Manby

3 ~ Don & Bernie Overholt

7 ~ Ron & Sharon Bailey

~ Jeff & Deb Decker

8 ~ Steve & Mindi Klingensmith

10 ~ Bob & Sharon Weaver

12 ~ Owen & Sherill Fahrni

~ Brandon & Katie Furtwangler

14 ~ Mark & Julie Makarewicz

23 ~ Bill & Kay Norris

31 ~ Rom & Carol Graham

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

We will have our **Charge Conference** on Thursday, September 10th on Zoom. For those who are a part of the Charge Conference, Pastor Elizabeth will send out the Zoom link. For those who do not have access to Zoom, the Fellowship Hall will be set up for you to participate.

I wish to thank my CUMC family for your prayers,
flowers, good wishes and cards of support as I
recover from my recent surgery.

Gladys Miller

CUMC Family,
Thank you for the congratulatory card and bookmark! I miss seeing all of your smiles in person. In the meantime, stay happy and healthy!
Love,
Samantha Handley



I leave you with this verse from Genesis: “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (2:15)

When God created humans, God created them to care and tend to God’s creation. May we, as the people of God in Caledonia, fulfill our calling by caring and tending for our Community Garden. May we take the opportunity to be *The Church* in a different way. May we connect with our community, connect with our Earth, and connect with our God.

Pastor Elizabeth

Home Church

In the early days of Christianity, folks would gather together in homes to share meals, pray, read scripture, and talk about faith together. Through gathering in homes, the faith grew stronger. Though we cannot open our church during this time, perhaps we can open our homes to one another. If you feel safe, please consider inviting a small group of folks into your home on Sunday mornings to eat, pray, and watch worship together. After service you can continue fellowship, discussing life, the service, or anything else in your minds and hearts. If you would like to open your home, or are interested in going to another’s home, please let the office know and we will connect you with others!

District and Conference Leadership Roles:

As we move into my second year with you, I want to share my leadership roles at the District and Conference levels. I serve as the Midwest District Secretary of Global Ministries. At the Conference level I serve on the Mission Intern Program Board and will take on the role of chairing the Young Adult Ministries Board this upcoming year.



Here are some pictures of Ethyl Johnston's 103rd birthday event at Railside. She received over 24 birthday cards from the church members and she really enjoyed them.

Bill Johnston



You are invited to **Virtual Coffee Hour** over Zoom, a time of fellowship, on **Sunday, August 2nd at 11:30 am**. You can video in or call in, should you want to! Please remember to enter the password and Pastor Elizabeth will let you in from the waiting room.

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81735964569?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81735964569?pwd=UGRCZDNpWmlQbFZmTXBzVEFUWXNJZz09)

[pwd=UGRCZDNpWmlQbFZmTXBzVEFUWXNJZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81735964569?pwd=UGRCZDNpWmlQbFZmTXBzVEFUWXNJZz09)

Meeting ID: 817 3596 4569

Password: 959957

Scout Troop 202

Well, we have had to be creative during this difficult time of Covid-19. Scouts has continued to have many meetings virtually. We've had regular Monday night Scout meetings, Girl troop meetings, rank advancement meetings, Merit Badge meetings, committee meetings and patrol meetings – all virtually from the safety of our homes. Although we are looking forward to getting back to see each other in person, we are grateful to our leaders for making sure that our scout paths are continuing forward. We were able to have a Swim Test day at a local lake with lots of social distancing. Scouts signed up for different time slots to come take their swim test and it worked out great.



What's Been Growing at the Garden?

July was a great month for the Community Garden out on Kraft Avenue! We hosted our first You Pick! Day on Saturday, July 11th. We had 26 people from the community come and pick some fresh veggies from our Garden. We also had folks post about the You Pick! Day in Caledonia Facebook Groups, which generated a lot of interest in the Garden. More people stopped by throughout the week to check out the Garden and pick some veggies and read some Garden themed books donated by a church member.



Sunday, July 12th, Garden Interns Meg Hartley and Carter Hammond led Caledonia UMC in a Worship Service. It was great to see two young adults designing and leading a worship experience for our church.

Tuesday July 14th, Meg and Carter picked some of the extra veggies from the Garden to donate to the food pantry at Holy Family! Not only were we able to connect community members to the Garden, but we were able to donate fresh veggies to those in need!



At the end of the month, we'll be changing over the wood beds to cinderblock beds, for more permanent beds at the Garden. The cost of the bricks is \$360. If you would like to help with the cost of bricks, or any of the other projects at the Garden, you can give money to the Community Garden Designated Fund.

The Trustees have been discussing resealing the parking lot. At their July meeting, they approved giving the job to Parking Lot Maintenance in Dutton. Gordon Giar has known them for years and they come highly recommended. We also reviewed one other job offer. Cost estimate is just under \$4200. The company is prepping this week (July 20) and hope to have it completed by the end of the week. Next time you are in the village stop by and look at the new parking lot. Many thanks to your contributions to CUMC for making this overdue project become a reality. Judy Kidder