



Focus

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*A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR,
by Cheryl Lyon*

Lord, you are a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Help me to share that Light with others. Help me to clean the lens that is my life so that your Light can shine brightly through me.

Help me to bring lightness and Light to everyone I meet. Let me give empathy, humor, assistance, and joy. To those feeling the weight of darkness, let me speak only words of encouragement, hope, and faith. Give me courage to reach out and the strength to withstand rebuffs. I wish to be a conduit of your Light.

Let your Light shine through me to light the paths of others and light the path to You. I pray in Christ's name. Amen

I hope you will join me in entering the new year with a renewed commitment to prayer. The yellow pocket prayer shawl so lovingly knitted rests in my coat pocket and reminds me several times a day to know I am prayed for and that I am called to pray.

This January, I am praying for you all and for our congregation in this challenging and exciting time of renewal and spiritual awakening. We do not clearly see the future that God has for us, but God has a vision for us and calls us forth. There are new ventures in ministry, like the Repair Ministry being offered to our neighborhood through the Washington School Neighbors and the Mission Team traveling to Cass Community in Detroit in February. There are new and continuing groups offering opportunities for study and spiritual growth. We will see and hear from our youth as they witness to us as part of the \$10 for 10 program to fund summer Christian camping and the summer youth missions. Teams are meeting and

working to train leaders, and to align our ministries with our vision and mission. The ministry of prayer is crucial as we move toward vitality as God's people at FUMC.

Now I ask for some personal prayers: On January 11, I will receive a full knee replacement at Holland Hospital. I ask for your prayers for the surgery and for the time of recovery. My husband, Tom, and my sister, Ann, will be caregivers in the first few weeks after surgery; they will need your prayers as well. I am told I should plan on at least six weeks before returning to work and preaching.

During that time, Rev. George Ward will be preaching and sharing in the pastoral care duties. George is a retired pastor from the Detroit Conference of the UMC and he and his wife, Alice, are active in our congregation. I am very thankful that George has graciously agreed to serve during the time of my medical leave. Please keep George and the church staff in prayer in this time.

I also want to share with you that my husband, Tom, plans to retire from his years of service as a pastor on July 1, 2016. Tom is ready to make the transition to grandfather caregiver, civic and church volunteer, and to be more free to care for his 91 year old mother. I look forward to coming home from work to Tom's home cooked meals and to his presence in worship with us at FUMC. Please pray for Tom and for the congregation at Grandville UMC in their time of transition.

Grace and peace to you, Pastor Lynn



A grace-filled community aflame with God's love for the world.

Happening this Month



Come join the **Lunch Bunch** on Sundays following the 10:45 a.m. service. We will gather at the Good Shepherd window to get a head count and head out to a local restaurant. All ages are welcome to join including singles, couples, and families. Check the bulletin for the days' location or contact David Newton.



will meet on January 7 for a "Get to Know You" lunch at Alpen Rose. Meet at church at noon if you'd like to ride the bus. Reservations are needed to Sharon Rocker by January 4. Cost is whatever you want to pay for your lunch. Sharon can be reached at 616 -392-1966 or ext. 104 here at the church.



will not meet in January. Books for the next meeting will be distributed during the month. Book Club will meet again on February 8 at 6:30 in the conference room. All are welcome! See Abby Searls if you are interested in reading the February book.

Please Note: The correct address for Conrad & Laurie Mutschler is 2309 West Lakewood Blvd. Holland, MI 49424

\$10-for-10

This annual fund drive, beginning January 10, 2016, is our way of encouraging our church children and youth to participate in the formative experiences of church camp and mission trips by helping them with the high costs of these week-long trips. We do this without selling you things you don't want; instead, we tell the stories from our hearts of what makes these experiences special to us. We are hoping at least 100 givers will be willing to contribute \$100, or \$10 for 10 weeks, and together those gifts will total \$10,000! If you are able to do "second mile" giving over \$100, please mark it as such. All of these donations and any amount raised over our goal will go to help families for whom our Guatemala trip this year might be cost-prohibitive, as well as families with more than one child to send to camp and on the mission trip. Thank you in advance for your support for our youth!



While Pastor Lynn recovers from her knee replacement surgery in January, Rev. George Ward will be preaching and sharing in the pastoral care duties. George is a retired pastor from the Detroit Conference of the UMC and he and his wife, Alice, are active in our congregation. He will have office hours here at the church on Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 PM-5:00 PM. He can be reached through the office.



A Prayer for the New Year offered by Peace with Justice

Creator God,
in love you have fashioned the human family
in a variety of races, languages, and cultures.
Do not let our diversity divide us,
but help us to welcome gifts
we can give and receive from one another.
Save us from prejudice, arrogance and fear,
and teach us how to live together
as members of one family,
sharing one home,
and the children of one God.

Amen.
<https://www.rca.org/resources/prayers-peace-and-justice>



The deadline for article submissions for the February Focus is January 18. Please email articles to mhaney@fumcholland.org by that date or earlier. If a hard copy must be used, please bring to main office by that date also. If you would prefer not receiving the Focus in the mail, please let Marj Haney know at mhaney@fumcholland.org



Birthday Wishes!

These friends are celebrating at least their 85th birthday this month. Please extend your well wishes!

January

21 Greta Long
285 Winter Oak East
Holland MI 49424

27 Betty Knoll
694 Whitman Ave
Holland MI 49423



28 Max Flowerday
361 W 31st St.
Holland MI 49423

Outreach Ministry



Mission Offering for the Bread Pan in January

Justice for our Neighbors has been selected to receive the Bread Pan Offering in January.

For those that are new to the church, the Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) program was founded in 1999 by the United Methodist Church to help immigrants navigate our country's complex immigration regulations. Our clinics help provide affordable immigration legal services to those with limited income. The Holland clinic is currently assisting a citizenship class on the north side. Using volunteers from our church and from the Intersection Church, we helped complete the class this past November using our lawyer, Liz Balck, who oversees all the work.

JFON also has a group called Friends of JFON and they will meet on Friday, January 15th for their next meeting. Tracy Garrett will be introduced at that time as the chair of that committee.

Please be in prayer for these congregation members and friends...

Sandy Eaton, Al Kindig, Ruth & Nancy Lumbert, John and Mary Buttrey, Deane Williams, all those who have lost loved ones during this holiday season and for everyone who isn't able to be merry right now.



In the Mailbag!

Thank you cards that come into the office are placed on the bulletin board across from the kitchen in the 9th St. hallway. Stop and read them sometime. Right now you will find notes from Claire Namovich, Lois Mitchell, Nita White, Ivy Cammenga and Dianna Strebel.

This note came via email: "Bud and I had a wonderful gift of Christmas spirit in the carolers that came to sing for us last night. David Newton brought a group of young people and they surely blessed us. Just seeing and hearing young carolers was in itself a joy for us. We loved it and them! I hope that they realized how wonderful they made us feel. They presented us with a lovely, tasty plate of cookies that the Senior High youth had made, too. It is so great to get to know them and feel their spirit. There surely is great hope in our church because of them and their leaders. Yes, Love came down at Christmas! Thank you so much and we would like to offer our love to you." Bud and Joyce Bennett



The Memorial Committee announces the following continuing and new Memorial Projects given to our church in memory of loved ones by family and friends.

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dottie Bauman | Nursery Remodel Fund |
| Edith Fincher | Nursery Remodel Fund |
| Dee and Dona Tyler | Pastors Discretionary Fund |
| Gee Tyler Hudson | Pastors Discretionary Fund |
| Pat Kirlin | Nursery Remodel Fund |
| Undesignated Funds | Set of VCI Books for the library |
| Undesignated Funds | Nursery Remodel Fund |

Nurture Ministry

Marj Haney, Director (ext. 106)

Heidi De Moss, Director of Adult Ministry

We are moving into the new year and continuing with the Winter curriculum. Teacher sign up sheets are available in the hallway of the first floor. Sign up to help a Sunday or two, you'll learn right along with the kids! Some of the stories we will be learning during the new year are Jesus' baptism, calling the disciples, and the women who also followed Jesus. Hope to see all our kids on Sundays at 9:40 on the first floor. Remember, this is a different experience than the Children & Worship Centers and the Bible/Worship class that happen during second service. They are both important for spiritual formation and growth.

We are hoping to offer a workshop for 4th-6th graders in late February called **Created by God: Tweens, Faith and Human Sexuality**. We looking for two or three more parents who would be willing to work with the Nurture team on this in a short term task force. Please consider this opportunity and let Marj Haney know if you are willing. We will meet this month to plan how we will present this material. There is also a **parent information brochure** available for all interested families. I encourage all families with tweens to pick up a copy, even if they don't think they will send their child to the workshop. See Marj Haney if you would like a copy.

Small Group Ministry

Small Group is a commitment that will bring you closer to God, grow your understanding of yourself and God, and bring you into deeper fellowship with some other Christians who are seeking the same thing. Supporting each other in our growing discipleship and building connections with each other is what Small Groups is about.

There are different types of Small Groups that give you different ways of moving forward in your discipleship. Our more traditionally styled Small Groups use a study of some type. The members of these groups learn about various Christian topics and the Christian faith itself. Studying together in an informationally driven Small Group can be a great way to learn more about the faith, and open yourself to the others in community.

Our new Life Groups move right into how you are trying to live each day, see God's presence in your life, and grow deeper in your discipleship. The focus is not on learning, but on doing.

We have a few groups that combine the use of a study, and the intentional focus on growing deeper and how we are living our faith out. Disciple Bible Study works in this way, as does the Women's Spiritual Growth Group.

If you haven't tried some type of small group ministry yet, talk with one of the leaders, a member, or Heidi and find out more.

Small Groups

Sunday Night Group 5:30 pm Sunday Evening
Led by Dave Marckini & George Ward—Lounge
Starting again on January 10

Coffee Klatz & Conversation 9:30 am Monday Morning
Led by David Newton—Lounge

Ladies Only 1 pm Monday Afternoons
contact Marsha Burnham Care Ministry Office
(every other week)
Current study: *Joan of Arcadia*

The Rocker Group 7 pm Monday Evening
contact Bill & Sharon Rocker (every other week)

Tuesday Night Group 7:30 pm Tuesday Evening
fed by Steve and Sandy Snyder Sr. Snyder home
This group is currently full. Talk to Heidi DeMoss about other options.

Wednesday Women's Spiritual Growth Group
New study: Life Together in Christ by Ruth Haley Barton - Three more meetings January 13, 20 and 27 7 p.m. in the lounge



Adult Nurture Opportunities

2016 is a good year to grow closer to God...How can Nurture Ministries help you build a path...Here are some possi-

bilities:

Looking for something new? A way to connect and share?

Life Groups

A new kind of small group. No materials to read or prepare. Just a sincere desire to grow your faith and share with each other how you and God are getting along. Look for more information below....

Disciple Bible Study

Disciple Bible Study Exploration

~ January 14th at 7 pm in the Lounge

Come hear some witnesses for this ministry, watch a sample video, have your questions answered, and sign-up for Disciple Bible Study I (class beginning Jan. 28) or Disciple Bible Study II (day and time to be determined).

Each of the Disciple Bible Study levels are intended to help us understand what God is revealing to us through the living Word using a deep study of Scripture. The study can be intense, but does not require a previous knowledge of the Bible. The Scripture being studied is well presented in both a required workbook, and short video lectures from Biblical Scholars.

If you would like to know more talk to Heidi DeMoss, Jan Sampson or Jim Chamness. Heidi can be reached at 616-307-2585. Contact information for Jan and Jim can be found in our church directory.

Ongoing Classes

FaithLinks Class

Where : Filling Station

contact Peg Minert

UMC FaithLinks material

Leadership will be provided by FaithLinks members.

Jan. 10, 17, & 24

Jan. 31 ~ Intergenerational event for all ages and stages.

Fellowship Space

Coffee and Conversation

Where : East end of Fellowship Hall

What : A time to gather and visit with each other, or just relax and refresh. Copies of the newspaper are present, as well as coffee, tea, and often some light refreshments.



Lecture\Presentation Classes

Short - Term Classes Where : Lounge

Jan. 3 & 10 ~ No classes, Holiday break.

If Grace Is True: Why God Will Save Every Person by Philip Gulley and James Mulholland

Led by David Hall

Two pastors present their...belief in eternal salvation for all through God's perfect grace. Long disturbed by the church's struggle between offering both love and rejection, they discover what God wants from us and for us: grace for everyone. (From the back cover of book) Written in six chapters this study may be adjusted beyond the scheduled time if needed. Please indicate your interest in the class ahead so that books may be ordered.

Jan. 17 ~ The Dilemma

Jan. 24 ~ Trusting Our Experience with God

Jan. 31 ~ Intergenerational event for all ages and stages.

Feb. 7 ~ The Character of God

Feb. 14 ~ The Will of God (1st Sunday of Lent)

Feb. 21 ~ The Salvation of God

Feb. 28 ~ The Persistence of God

Life Groups

A new kind of small group where you don't study how to be a Christian, you share with each other what being you, and looking for God, and trying your best, and maybe failing was like this week. And you listen while others do the same. All with the hope that God's grace will transform your life, and their lives, in deep and lasting ways over time together. No materials to read or prepare. Just a sincere desire to grow your faith. Want to know more? Talk to Heidi DeMoss, Dave Diehl, Lisa and Andy Snyder.

Monday Evening Life Group

7 pm Monday Evening

Guided by Dave Diehl at the Diehl Home

Call Dave or Heidi DeMoss

Everyone is welcome! Dave: (616)335-5339

Thursday Evening Life Group

7 pm Thursday Evening

Guided by Lisa Snyder at the Snyder Home

Call Lisa or Heidi DeMoss

Everyone is welcome! Lisa: (616)566-6328

There will be an **intergeneration event** on January 31 during the Sunday school time of 9:40-10:30. We are looking for people to help with this. Please see Marj Haney or Heidi DeMoss to volunteer.

United Methodist Women

January Service circle is Hope and meals in time of need is Joy.

Because of the Holiday the meetings are moved up a week.

7, Executive Board meeting

13, Hope Circle meets at noon for lunch in the Lounge

14, Shalom and Joy Circle at 10:30 in the lounge with lunch following the meeting.

14, Faith Circle at 7pm in the lounge.

We will have Nancy Jones from "My House Ministries" come to speak to the day time circles on Wednesday and Thursday. Every is welcome to go to either circle to hear about this ministry for women and children. They provide housing for Women along with counseling to help them become independent. This is a relatively new ministry here in Holland. Come and hear about how they started and the success they have had to date. We are supporting them with a financial gift this this year.

Thank you to our Bazaar Chairman, Liz Travis, Janet Hardenberg, Cindy Helder and Tracy Garrett and the rest of the congregation who volunteered their time, talents and money to make it a big success. Liz reported a profit of around \$16,600. Our giving report for missions locally and around the world follows this report. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Thank you to all who worked on the Kerstmarkt at the Civic Center selling food including the Pigs in the Blankets. The youth were a big help again this year as they earned money for their mission trip next summer.

The Christmas Luncheon was hosted by Joy Circle and Dave Newton did a Carol Sing with history about each Carol. Money has been sent to missions in the names of Robin Briggs and Mary Jo DeLany for their work to further God's Kingdom. Sue Linn had gifts for people that could use a visit this Christmas Season. Thanks, Sue

UMW has given our **2015 Year End Giving** to the following missions:

Children Advocacy Center, Community Kitchen, Community ACTION House, Grand Rapids Community House plus a gift to their special maintenance project, Good Samaritan Neighborhood (Washington Neighbors), Holland Community Health Center, Holland Free Health Clinic, JFON, O.A.R., the pastor's discretionary fund, Henderson Settlement, and P.E.T.

We added 8 new missions this year: Nestlings Diaper Bank, Benjamin's Hope, Holland Hospital School Nurse Program, His Harvest Stand, Escape Ministries, My House Ministry, Kid's Food Basket Sack Supper, and the Global Ministries-supporting UM Missionaries.

Our total year end giving is \$18,400.

Thank you for your support helping raise these funds!

Finance Update by Kent Jagnow, Treasurer

I hope all had a very wonderful holiday season.

We are in the process of finalizing our 2016 budget. Our Stewardship campaign is nearing completion. In January the Finance Committee will be making phone calls in an attempt to contact some members and inform them of our goals and needs for the 2016 Ministry year. We are excited about the programs that may take place but your church needs your help in achieving these goals. Anyone on the Finance Committee would be happy to try and answer any questions you may have about the 2016 budget and the programs it supports.

REVENUES: Contributions and other revenues as of Dec. 22, 2015 are \$50,349 below (unfavorable) the budgeted amount of \$599,347. We still have one more

Sunday in the year which will help reduce this shortfall. Contribution statements went out last week. Please try to catch up on your giving prior to the end of the year. All contributions POST MARKED by Dec. 31, 2015 will be counted as 2015 giving. The office is open til 3.

Expenses: Our expenses as of Dec. 22, 2015 are \$40,709 below (favorable) the budgeted amount of \$599,347. We still have some expenses that will come in but I feel the net results will not worsen by a significant amount.

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| NET RESULTS | REVENUES (\$50,349) |
| | <u>EXPENSES \$40,709</u> |
| | NET (\$9.640) |

January 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

Schedule of Events

- January 19 Staff Parish 6:00 PM
- January 19 Trustees 6:00 PM
- January 19 Finance 6:00 PM
- January 19 Ch. Council 8:00 PM
- January 21 Stephen Min. Supervision 7:00 PM

Each week:

- Tuesday noon: Senior Meal
- Thursday 7:00: Volleyball

Youth Ministry

LuAnne Stanley Hook, Director (ext. 108)

Happy New Year from Youth Ministries! 2016 is going to be a great year, with mission trips planned to Chimaltenango, Guatemala and Cass Community Services in Detroit, as well as lots of fun, service, fellowship and growth opportunities for the youth of our church! Thanks to our FUMC family for your gracious and generous support for our youth program. Speaking of which, our annual \$10-for-10 campaign will kick off on January 10 with youth and adult speakers on many of the 10 Sundays of the campaign. We hope that these moments in the service will give you a glimpse of what church camp and mission trips mean to our youth and encourage you to support this fundraising event.

January Youth Schedule

Sunday, January 3, 2016

Confirmation Class meets in The Well, 9:15 a.m. Bring some goodies to share while we watch a movie!

Hope Group for youth dealing with depression and anxiety, 4:00-5:15 p.m. in the lounge

Both groups, movie and pizza in the Eclipse before school starts the next day! 5:30-7:30. Don't be late—the movie will start by 5:45!

Sunday, January 10

\$10-for-10 begins

Confirmation Class begins weekly meetings.

Youth Group will meet from 5:30-7:30 in the Eclipse

Sunday, January 17

Both groups, 5:30-7:30 in the Eclipse.

Saturday, January 23

Senior High lock-in, 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. We will end the lock-in by attending the early service. Bring \$18 for pizza and laser tag, and sleds and warm clothing if there is snow.

Sunday, January 24

Middle School- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dress warmly and bring your snow shovels to do some shoveling around the church neighborhood. No senior high youth group tonight.

Sunday, January 31

Both groups, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 7

Both groups—Super Bowl Party. Meet at the Hooks' at 6618 Butternut Drive in West Olive at 6:00.

More details coming in the February Focus but save the date!!



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

57 W. 10th St.
Holland MI 49423
Return Service Requested

Phone: 616-396-5205

January 2016

Pastor Rev. J. Lynn
Pier-Fitzgerald
Phone: 616-393-6242

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Worship Topics for January
Sunday Morning 8:30 and 10:45

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| January 3 | Epiphany Sunday | Child Friendly (10:45) David Newton, preaching | Matt. 2: 1-12 |
| January 10 | “A Spirit Born People” | Acts 8: 14-17; Isaiah 43: 1-7, Pastor Lynn Pier-Fitzgerald, preaching | Holy Communion |
| January 17 | God’s Vision Statement | Luke 3:1-6, 15-17, 21-22 When Jesus was baptized, God gave him a vision statement. Does God’s vision statement also apply to us? | Rev. George Ward, preaching |
| January 24 | Jesus’ Mission Statement | Luke 4:14-21 When Jesus spoke at the Nazareth synagogue, he shared his mission statement. Should it be our mission statement, too? | Rev. George Ward, preaching |
| January 31 | Now for the Hard Part | Luke 4:21-30 It’s all well and good to have a vision statement and a mission statement. But the really hard part is making them a reality. | Rev. George Ward, preaching |