

# LUX

August/September 2021

The newsletter of University Lutheran Church and One Community Lutheran Campus Ministry at Michigan State University

## Mark Your Calendars . . .

### Outdoor Communion

Sept. 5 & 19  
11:45 a.m. – ULC Parking lot

### Faith, Writing & Reflection Small Group

Tuesday, Sept. 7 – 3 p.m.  
Zoom

### Brunch Bunch Small Group

Thursday, Sept. 9 – 9:30 a.m.  
E. Lansing IHOP

### ULC Book Club

Thursday, Sept. 16 – 10 a.m.  
*Remnants of Summer*  
by Dawn Newton

### Food Movers

Thursday, Sept. 23  
Drive-thru distribution  
beginning 4:30 p.m.

### Pub Theology

Sept. 28 – 7 p.m. on Zoom

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## Small Steps Toward In-Person Worship

On June 6, ULC began a first small step in returning to in-person worship since March 2020. Throughout the summer, on the first and third Sunday of each month, between 45 and 60 people have met at 11:45 a.m. in the ULC parking lot. After a brief Communion liturgy, participants received the elements.



Pastor Gary offers a Communion blessing during the June 6 service.

Following the service, members often stayed around and shared some much-welcomed fellowship. This Communion Service will continue through September or until we resume in-person worship.

*Amy Wagenknecht*

## In-Person Worship Plans

As we prepare to begin in-person worship again, it is important to realize that we will not simply be going back to how worship was pre-pandemic. Several changes will be necessary to keep people safe and follow CDC guidelines. Following is a list of some of the changes that will be needed as we return.



- Tentative Date to begin in-person worship: September 26
- There will be no congregational singing. Because singing aerosolizes the COVID-19 virus at a greater rate, singing will be limited to solos/duets and video recordings of music.
- Empty pews will be necessary to allow for social distancing
- There will be no passing of the Peace
- Coffee hour and refreshments will not be possible
- Masks will be necessary following CDC guidelines
- Outdoor Communion will continue on the first and third Sundays until in-person worship begins.

*Pastor Gary*

*An integrated family journeying faithfully together, inspired by God's grace,  
guided by Christ, and empowered and sustained by the Holy Spirit*

## Starting a New Academic Year

As we prepare to move into a new academic year gradually emerging from the pandemic, my sense is that this will be a year unlike any other and will not simply be “getting back to normal.” We all desire “getting back to normal,” but we’ve been through a pandemic that has radically affected our lives and world.

“Getting back to normal” may be more about adapting and adjusting to a new way of life that then becomes a new normal. I suppose you could say that it’s a resurrection of sorts.

So, what do I expect of this new academic year? To be honest I’m not totally sure. As I write this at the beginning of August, the COVID situation is radically different than when I left for vacation in mid-July. In mid-July I expected that we’d be back to in-person worship in September. Now I’m not so sure. We’re still planning and preparing for that, but it all depends on the pandemic and people getting vaccinated. If you haven’t already gotten your vaccination, I would encourage you to please do so not only for your own health and wellbeing, but for the health and wellbeing of the community.

With all this in mind, I expect this new academic year to be a year of moving forward and stepping back. A year of experimentation. A year of trying something out, and then evaluating and adjusting as necessary and learning from our experience. A year of learning how to be the church in a totally new situation.

To begin, Council has decided that when we return to in-person worship we’ll do so with one worship service on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. rather than our pre-pandemic schedule of two services. Will we stay with this schedule? We’ll have to evaluate and see. Also, according to our COVID Return Plan, we will need to wait to begin in-person worship until case numbers in Ingham County decrease to about five per 100,000. We were there briefly at the beginning of July but now the numbers have risen.

Another new normal is that when we return to in-person worship, we will be live streaming our worship. We want to make sure live streaming is in place before we begin in-person worship so that those who are not comfortable returning to in-person worship, those who have connected with us online but live outside the area, and those who are home-bound

can continue to worship with us. Currently live streaming equipment is being installed in the sanctuary and we anticipate being ready to live stream in mid-September. We will also be learning how best to use the new screen and projecting capabilities in the sanctuary.

So, a new academic year. A year of emerging from a pandemic. A year of experimenting. A year of learning. But certainly not a year of simply “getting back to normal.” This both excites me and unnerves me. I like to plan and know where I’m going, so being uncertain is unnerving. And right now, “normal” sounds good. But at the same time, it’s also exciting because it opens up the possibility for the Holy Spirit to be at work creating and forming the church for a post-pandemic world.

My prayer for this new academic year is that the Holy Spirit will be at work, shaping and forming us in new and exciting ways.

Blessings as we enjoy the rest of the summer and enter into a new year,

*Pastor Gary*

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## Al Fresco Communion



Pastor Gary leads nearly 50 participants in outdoor Communion in the ULC parking lot.



# What? A Screen in the ULC Sanctuary? Oh My!

When you enter the sanctuary for the first time for in-person worship, you will notice a significant change. A large screen has been installed on the left-hand side of the front of the altar area. This was a Council project and significantly funded by an Endowment grant and a very generous member contribution.

If our pandemic online worship experience this past year and a half has taught us anything, it is that multimedia, artwork, and video has a place in our worship life. And not simply just a place, it has enriched our worship life and enabled us to worship and communicate in powerful ways that would not otherwise be possible. Telling the Gospel message through artwork (paintings, stained glass windows) has been an important part of the Church's heritage, and now because of the technology available, the "artwork" used to tell the Gospel message is not simply static, but also moving and changing in the form of projected video and images.

As we learn to use the new screen and projector, we envision that it will serve our worshiping community in these important ways:

- It will broaden our opportunities to be creative
- Help us to welcome people into worship who are unfamiliar with Lutheran liturgy



The new video screen is installed, and the projector image is being focused.

- Enhance the congregation's worship experience through visual and audio artistry, music, and more
- Provide opportunities for community engagement within and outside of worship
- The screen will be utilized in worship in a variety of ways including: the application of artwork and sharing videos about ULC's Outreach of the Month, Synod and ELCA ministries; Worship Wednesdays; Senior Choir recordings; Scholarship Quartet;

## Campus Ministry

- Live video of musical offerings that typically take place in the rear of the sanctuary, i.e. Senior Choir, Bell Choir, Scholarship and instrumental offerings

Part of our Lutheran heritage is Martin Luther embracing and using the modern technology of his day – the printing press – to disseminate his writings and fuel the Reformation. Embracing the technology of our day is simply embracing our Lutheran heritage.

As we learn how to best use the screen and projector, we'll no doubt discover ways that we may not want to use again, but we'll also discover ways that deeply enrich our worship life together.

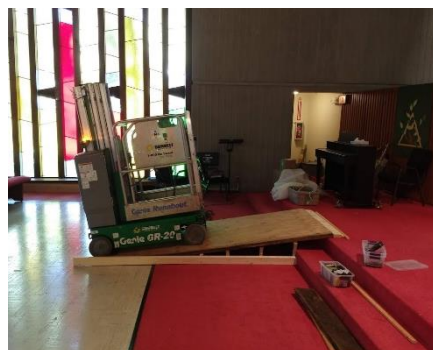
*Pastor Gary*



Brandon and Jim raise and install the frame.



The screen material is laced to the frame and raised to be attached to the wall.



A ramp to get the scissor lift up the steps.



Thom and Jim install the decorative outer frame.



The completed project.

## Meet Our 2021-22 Student Associates

### Andrea Vera (she/her/hers), Class of 2023



I will be a fourth-year Environmental Engineering Student at MSU this fall. I appreciated every minute of campus ministry this past year, the virtual nature of all our meetings really put our name One Community to the test! In combination with our monthly

bible study, I feel that I have been nudged in the right direction down a path that is slowly showing me how my faith can be used as a tool for justice. I stayed in East Lansing this summer, continuing my involvement in research concerning microbial identification for contaminant biodegradation in water and soil as well as camping, gardening, and reading in my hammock!

### Annaliese Marks, (she/her/ hers), Class of 2022:



I'm a rising senior in Biosystems Engineering, minors in women's and gender studies and environmental and sustainability studies. This past year in campus ministry has been overall quite wonderful considering the circumstances. This summer I interned

as an Engineering Technician with the Department of the Army to work with MSU and the Department of Defense

on wastewater treatment research and development. I also took some time for myself to read, paint, bake, and hang out in my hammock just enjoying nature!

### Maggie Haite (they/them), Class of 2023



I'm a rising junior, majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife at MSU. Although it was different in the online setting, I had a really good time this past year! This summer I took some time for myself, taking a break from school for the most part and getting

excited about my interests again. I'm absolutely excited to be returning as a Student Associate in the fall!

### Rachel Drobnak (she/her/hers), Class of 2023



I'm a rising junior, studying Crop & Soil Science at MSU. This past year in campus ministry has truly been joyful and life-giving for me. This summer I was a Sustainable Agriculture intern at Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory

Corners, MI (where Maggie currently lives). I moved into my apartment around mid-August and am excited to return as a Student Associate in campus ministry!

## Covid Guidelines for Return to MSU

Dr. Samuel Stanley wrote a letter published on July 30, addressing the MSU community with updated Covid-19 requirements for the fall semester. Here are a few highlights.

1. All individuals are required to wear masks indoors beginning Aug. 1 in all campus buildings and other MSU facilities in East Lansing and throughout the state. This requirement will be in place for at least the first weeks of the fall semester.
2. All students, faculty and staff are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 with an FDA-authorized or WHO-approved vaccine by Aug. 31. Limited exemptions for medical or religious reasons will be provided.



For those who have not received a COVID-19 vaccination yet, it's time to do so. You can receive one through the MSU Health Care Pharmacy or find a vaccination provider near you by visiting vaccines.gov. Students, faculty or staff who have not completed their vaccine regimen and those exempt from the vaccine for health or religious reasons will be required to

take part in MSU's Early Detection Program or other measures that help keep them safe.

We are all in this battle against COVID-19 and its variants together and I firmly believe the actions we are taking today are necessary measures. As we have throughout the pandemic, we will continue to monitor the situation and will adjust as needed. I appreciate the commitment of our students, faculty, staff and others to protect our Spartan Community.

Sincerely,  
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D. (he/him)  
President

## Worship Wednesdays Resume on Zoom this Fall

Our faith formation program year with children will resume on Zoom this fall. Worship Wednesday for children (age 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will continue to brighten our hearts and homes with recorded highlights to be featured in online and in-person worship. We plan to gather on Zoom at 4 Wednesdays, September (after Labor Day) through December, culminating with our annual Christmas play!)



ukulele, rhythm instruments, and movement), along with fun crafts and activities that help our children grow in faith and life. You can register children on our [website](#) or send an email to me ([haley.vay@gmail.com](mailto:haley.vay@gmail.com)) to learn more.

In Worship Wednesday we gather to explore our faith through Bible stories, Children's Choir, music (including Bell Choir,

Thank you for your prayerful support as we do our best to navigate this ministry in these ongoing pandemic times.

*Pastor Haley Vay*

## God Sightings with Grandpa Phil

Phil Brooks has been part of the ULC community for decades. He and his wife Sandy raised their children here and now find joy in passing along the faith to the next generation. A true champion of intergenerational ministry, Phil is endearingly known in Worship Wednesday as "Grandpa Phil."



Pirate Grandpa Phil, Stella and Theo.

Thank you, Grandpa Phil, and everyone who contributes their time, energy, compassion, and prayer to the ministry we share. Check out some of the God Sightings that Grandpa Phil has witnessed this summer and I hope you'll also ask, *where do I "see God" in my life today?*

works in awesome ways. I asked him if he remembered the Palm Sunday story and chose to briefly retell it for him. He is also very proud of his resurrection plant. Had to share and thank you for being part of his experience!

**God Sighting #3:** Well today, at Grandpa daycare, God's presence showed up again in my little buddy as it does every day, but today after listening to three or four Motown selections (Theo's favorites), he chose the "Roar" CD from Bible camp two years ago. He was singing and dancing and said, "this is the one the church gave me!" He listened to #10 "Thankful" five times. This little guy is only five but has the spirituality of a much older soul.

**God Sighting #4:** (Background: HV, do you know if ULC still does the Bike Program? A friend of mine passed away and his son from California is clearing his house out and has several bikes he wants to donate.) Haley Vay, Britny gave me the key and my Bicycle Ministry Under-sheriffs delivered five donated bicycles to the storage room today.



Theo (5) & Stella (2) with donated bikes at ULC.

When the spring session of Worship Wednesday concluded in May, I encouraged the children and their families to notice God Sightings that happen all around them this summer. Where are the helpers? Who is sharing love like Jesus? How can you show compassion to your neighbor? When will you need to give and receive love and forgiveness?

Recognizing these moments are what we call "God Sightings" in faith formation with our children. But God Sightings aren't only things that we see; they can be expressed and received through all five of our senses including sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing – a full body experience!

Grandpa Phil took my invitation seriously, and I couldn't be more grateful! Sharing the good news is what we're about as the people of God, the hands, feet, and heart of Christ in the world today. Plus, our kids are watching, listening, and learning.

**God Sighting #1:** It comes down to the ole saying That "it takes a Village to raise a kid" and when it's our grandbabies I feel fortunate that their village includes people like you and the staff who dedicate their lives to nurturing a strong relationship with their faith as we were instructed by the Almighty. Again, thanks for being part of our team and hope you and your fam have an awesome summer.

**God Sighting #2:** Pastor Haley Vay, I know Worship Weds are over but wanted to share my God Sighting for today that speaks to your hard work. My daughter took a mini trip last weekend to visit a college teammate of hers in Palm Springs, CA. Today when I was getting Theo and Stella ready for the day, Theo chose to wear a shirt his mom brought him back. Then he went and got Stella's and brought it to me and said, "see Grandpa, my mom brought both of us *Palm Sunday* shirts!" The shirts say, "Palm Springs California." 😊 God

*These are a sampling of God Sightings that have been shared by Grandpa Phil this summer. I hope they bring you as much joy and encouragement as they continue to give me.*

*In peace  
Pastor Haley Vay*

# Fall Forum Preview!

While we don't know exactly when Forum will resume this fall, I wanted to give you a preview of coming attractions. Pastor Gary will be presenting another thought-provoking DVD series through the fall and early winter. Here's a brief description from the "Living the Questions" website, followed by a quote from one of the rave reviews.



And from Rev. David Wilkinson, a UMC pastor in Tucson, AZ, where over 100 people recently completed the 12-part series, "Saving Jesus has been the most inspiring and thought-provoking adult education series I have ever experienced in my 38 years of ministry. [It raises] important questions about our faith...It also encourages us to embrace a greater understanding of faith that is inclusive and reconciling rather than unique and exclusive. The course...speaks to the twenty-first century Christian and a twenty-first century global family. ...this new curriculum [will] set your church on fire."

*"Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left? Saving Jesus Redux is total revision of Living the Question's popular 12-session DVD-based small group exploration of a credible Jesus for the third millennium. New contributors including Brian McLaren, Diana Butler Bass, and Robin Meyers join Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, and a host of others for a conversation around the relevance of Jesus for today."*

Watch the weekly email announcements for the fall schedule and start date of forum this year, sometime in September or early October. The first few forums will feature local and/or ULC speakers as the series will not begin until late October or early November.

Linda Trevarthen



## ULC Memorial Library

### New Book Looks at Lutherans and Immigration

The ULC Memorial Library recently added the book, *They Are Us: Lutherans and Immigration* by Stephen Borman and Ralston Deffenbaugh, published by Fortress Press, to the Bandlow Racial Justice Collection. The cover describes this book as "A thoughtful and timely look at the Christian calling to welcome the stranger."

The review continues, "*They Are Us* proposes that the church at every level work to transform our present

polarization and fear and lead to real change. Through stories of crisis and hope, *They Are Us* helps Christian communities understand ourselves and our ministries as part of God's narrative of love and hospitality for the little, the lost, the last, and the least."

A review by Bishop Elizabeth Eaton states, "As a sanctuary church, the ELCA is committed to serving migrant children and families in

communities across the country. This second edition of *They Are Us* gives practical ways in which congregations and leaders can live into this commitment, grounded in scripture and stories of our new neighbors."



If you would like to borrow this book please contact Connie at [connielenkowski@gmail.com](mailto:connielenkowski@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

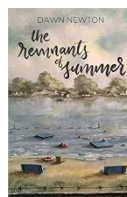
The Library Team

## ULC Book Club



### Author Joins Discussion in September

Over the summer the ULC Book Club read *The Remnants of Summer* written by ULC member Dawn Newton. Dawn will be joining us when we meet to discuss this book on Thursday, Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. According to Goodreads.com the book is "set in a working-class Detroit neighborhood" during the early summer of 1974 and follows the main character, Iris, as she struggles with the



drowning death of her brother, Scott, the previous summer and her current relationship with her sister, Liz. It "is a story of how collective grief and personal guilt threaten the individuals who make up a family."

Book Club Co-Chair, Beth Rahe, says, "Reading the novel brought me back to the summer of 1974 with

Continued on page 7

# Check Out Our Small Groups!

### Brunch Bunch



Brunch Bunch is a new ULC fellowship group! All women and friends of ULC are invited. We will meet on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 9 at the IHOP in E. Lansing. If you would like to get an email reminder, please contact Jan Mace Sollenberger [olieandjanicemace@gmail.com](mailto:olieandjanicemace@gmail.com) to be added to the list

### Faith, Writing & Reflection



A new *small* group, meeting on Zoom, using *40-Day Journey with Madeleine L'Engel*. Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 7 from 3 to 4:30 pm. Contact: Carole Ford [cfordllp@yahoo.com](mailto:cfordllp@yahoo.com)

### Pub Theology



Join us virtually every last Tuesday from 7 - 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. We will discuss four or five questions involving spiritual topics, philosophy, life, and theology. Check our website homepage at [ulcel.org](http://ulcel.org) or Facebook page for the questions for the upcoming session. Contact: Pr. Gary [garybunge@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garybunge@sbcglobal.net).

### Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina meets virtually Wednesdays at noon on Zoom. God in Scripture (*Lectio Divina*)

is a way of listening to the texts of Scripture as if we were in conversation with Christ and He was suggesting the topics. Bring your lunch and join us! Contact Pastor Gary, [garybunge@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garybunge@sbcglobal.net).

### Tuesday AM Bible Study



This group meets every Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Zoom. The Bible study reviews the biblical texts for the upcoming Sunday.

Copies of the texts are sent a couple of days before the study. The co-leaders of the group are Jim Keifer [jkiefer@Dykema.com](mailto:jkiefer@Dykema.com) Nancy Lindman [nlindman@uw-mich.org](mailto:nlindman@uw-mich.org) and Larry Wagenknecht [larry.wagenknecht@gmail.com](mailto:larry.wagenknecht@gmail.com).

### Bible Study Circles



**Amnos** meets at 9:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month (Sept 15). This year we are studying Women of the Bible. Due to Covid concerns, we will be meeting by Zoom. If the weather permits, we may meet in the small parking lot. Amnos Circle is the only circle that has male participants. Please join us! Contact: Marilyn Johnson [majandmgj@gmail.com](mailto:majandmgj@gmail.com).

**Rhodon Circle** meets the third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They use the Bible study from the *Gather* magazine, the publication of the

Women of the ELCA. Contact: Connie Lenkowski [connielenkowski@gmail.com](mailto:connielenkowski@gmail.com).

**Lychnion Circle** meets the third Tuesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. They use the Bible study from the *Gather* Magazine each month. We will meet at ULC on Sept. 21. Contact: Carolyn Lohr [aclohr@comcast.net](mailto:aclohr@comcast.net).

### Tight Knit



We meet weekly to knit/crochet items for charity and share fellowship. Beginning Sept. 13, we will resume meeting at ULC. Contact: Anne Smith, [asmith1959@hotmail.com](mailto:asmith1959@hotmail.com)

### ULC Book Club



We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. to share fellowship and discuss the selected book. Contact: Beth Rahe [bwojan1@gmail.com](mailto:bwojan1@gmail.com) or Mary Kotnik [mkotnik@comcast.net](mailto:mkotnik@comcast.net).

### Prayers & Squares



Sewers of all skill levels are invited to join this ministry that creates prayer quilts (and more) throughout the year. We meet in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact: Ann Booren, [boorena@msu.edu](mailto:boorena@msu.edu).

**Book Club** continued from page 6

*amazing clarity. Each chapter added another delicate layer to the journey Iris faced to come of age bearing the additional weight of her brother's death during a defining time in our nation's history."*

If you would like to purchase *The Remnants of Summer*, we are excited to announce that Beth has arranged for a spot on the Book Club table at Schuler's Book Store. Books on this table are discounted 20 percent.

We hope to meet in person in September, depending on CDC guidelines and weather. If possible, we will meet outdoors. Please watch your email for updates.

The book club meets the third Thursday of every month from September to May at 10 a.m. We take the month of December off to accommodate busy holiday schedules.

Please join us! To be added to our email list and receive book selections and meeting locations, contact Beth at [bwojan1@gmail.com](mailto:bwojan1@gmail.com) or Mary at [mkotnik@comcast.net](mailto:mkotnik@comcast.net).

Beth Rahe and Mary Kotnik

## Vocal Music at ULC - Moving Forward

On a Wednesday evening in August, our Senior Choir gathered in person at ULC for the first time since March of 2020. Seated outside, we took time to catch up and to share stories about our summers. However, the main topic of this meeting was to discuss what choir might look like this fall as we head back to in-person worship services. Here are some highlights of our discussion.



We all have hopes that our vocal choirs (the Senior Choir, Scholarship Quartet, New Hope Singers, and the Children's Choir) will soon be singing together in person. For now, after much research on how to sing safely as a choir during Covid, discussions with our pastors and staff, and guidance from Council regarding returning to in-person worship, we will move forward in the following ways:

- Vocal musical offerings will be added to in-person worship services in stages. We will begin with vocal solos and small ensembles (duets, trios, quartets), and

will work toward including larger groups singing in-person as we progress thru the fall semester.

- Music with the children, as part of our awesome Worship Wednesdays, will remain online until further notice.
- Rehearsals for the Senior Choir will remain online for the time being. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m.
- The choir's first musical offering will most likely be a video. Steve Sneed, a member of both the choir, and ULC's audio visual team, has graciously agreed to edit and produce this video.

I am looking forward to the day when we will all sing together again in person. For now, it is one step at a time as we continue to move forward, raising our voices in song, "in such a time as this."

*Janine Novenske Smith  
Director of Music*

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## Earthkeeping News

### Capital Area Michigan Interfaith Power & Light Formed

The Earthkeeping Team at ULC has joined with several other faith communities to carry out our mission of caring for God's creation beyond our doors and into the wider community.



**Michigan  
Interfaith  
Power & Light**

Members of congregations from the Lansing area are joining together to promote transformative climate action in our community.

The new group is the **Capital Area MI IPL** which is a subgroup of the Michigan Interfaith Power and Light.

MI IPL is part of a national organization of interfaith members promoting environmental justice. ULC received the "**Community Inspiration Award**" honorable mention in

conjunction with our joint solar installations with the Islamic Center.

Individually, our houses of worship have already begun to highlight a path to a renewable future and now we can respond together with our partners in reaching further into our community.

*Judy Kindel*

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## Recycling Events

**Electronics Recycling** event on Saturday, **Sept. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Chippewa Middle School, 4000 Okemos Road, Okemos.



Meridian Township has an alphabetical listing of locations and businesses where people can recycle items not taken at drop off sites. [recycle@meridian.mi.us](mailto:recycle@meridian.mi.us)

**Household Hazardous Waste. Accepted Tuesday and Thursdays from 2-6 p.m. through Sept.** Located behind the Human Services Building, 5303 South Cedar St., near Jolly and Cedar in Lansing. For a list of accepted items go to [hd.ingham.org](http://hd.ingham.org)

For general information, Regional Recycling for Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties. <http://midmichrecycles.org>

*Judy Kindel*



# August Outreach of the Month

## The Davies Project: More Than Just a Ride

The focus of the August Outreach is The Davies Project. You may donate by sending a check to the church or on-line using the “donate” button on the ULC website [www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org). Please indicate “Davies Project” in the memo.



Lack of transportation significantly affects access to health care and disproportionately affects those on the low end of the socioeconomic spectrum. About 70 percent of the children who use the Lansing area specialty clinics are on Medicaid and miss roughly 60 percent of their medical appointments. On average, it takes about 10-15 minutes to travel by car from South Lansing, where 75 percent of Lansing’s population lives, to the pediatric specialty clinics at Sparrow. However, by bus, the trek involves at least one transfer, walking some distance, and can take one to two hours.

Volunteer drivers from The Davies Project enable families who need transportation to access health care. So far, we have reached about six percent of the thousands of children in our community who could be healthier if they had regular, reliable rides to critical appointments.

Rides are available for:

1. Children who see a specialist of any kind for a serious health condition. They may receive rides to all their medical appointments, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, well-child checks, dental and eye care, and even mental health appointments so that the whole child can be healthy.



2. Pregnant women to prenatal appointments for as healthy a start as possible.
3. Parents to the NICU if they have a hospitalized infant. This is critical so that the parents can bond with their child and learn how to provide any needed care upon discharge from the hospital.

Rides are open to those who do not have safe and reliable transportation.

- This could be a temporary situation where the car is in the shop.
- This could also be a situation where the family has one car but needs it so that another parent can drive to work to keep income and health insurance.
- There are no income criteria.

However, more children need to be reached.

One challenge to overcome is great distrust of the medical system. This distrust prevents many people of color from even attempting to access health care today. Much of this

distrust is rooted in racism.

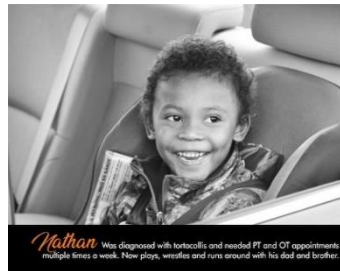
According to The American Academy of Family Physicians, the decades of systemic

segregation and racism has resulted in many inequities in accessing quality health care that linger today.

Two years ago, we conducted focus groups with families who had and had not received free rides from The Davies Project. Those who had,

described more positive interactions with the health care system. Because of rides to the appointments, their children's health improved. And perhaps there was another benefit.

In addition to providing rides, volunteer drivers helped families navigate the healthcare system. They helped bounce ideas around about the best way to talk to their child's doctor. Volunteer drivers provided a supportive presence to prevent an anxious parent from negatively spiraling to a darker frame of mind. Through the art of simple



communication, volunteer drivers develop confidence and trust on the part of families. This relationship building is a positive way to address the

detrimental effects of racist policies that continue to plague our country.

Building trust takes time but it is critical.

These trusting relationships provide an opportunity to help families better understand the importance of identifying and monitoring chronic conditions. For example, parents may feel it’s okay to skip a child’s appointment, especially if the child seems well that day. This can be especially detrimental for children with asthma, diabetes, and sickle cell disease since children with these diseases who miss appointments are the ones most likely to end up in an emergency room and admitted to the hospital. Under regular outpatient monitoring, these hospital stays can be avoided.

Thank you for your support to drive change for improving children’s health.

*Joy Whitten*



Racial Justice Team

## September Outreach of the Month Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation (CORR)

While building ULC's racial justice ministry, we have been blessed to find Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation (CORR). CORR exists to empower and equip churches and other Christian organizations to organize and disciple their members to be agents for life-long biblical racial justice. A fundamental way that CORR does this is by leading workshops on understanding racism. Eighteen people from the ULC community attended one of these workshops last April.

ULC is benefiting greatly from having access to CORR's workshops and coaching. We encourage you to make a donation to CORR as the September Outreach of the Month to help ensure that CORR's support, expertise, and leadership continue to be available to ULC and other congregations in Michigan. You may donate by sending a check to the church or on-line using the "donate" button on the ULC website [www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org). Please indicate "CORR" in the memo.

The following is from the "CORR Statement on Racism" dated June 12, 2020:

"In this moment of nationwide outcry following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and other children of God, the vision of CORR (Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation) for the beloved community remains constant. For 20 years, CORR has been confronting the sin of racism and working to dismantle white supremacy.

**CORR's vision:** that individuals and institutions be equipped for life-long biblical antiracism by creating a robust theology of justice through which we all can pursue Shalom.

We do this through three paths:

**Education:** Learning about Race, Racism, and the impact of both on society is important. The more we learn, particularly to help unlearn the lies we have been taught, the more we accept the truths about what is going on. The more we learn, the less we are tempted to deny the realities in which we find ourselves.

**Internalization:** We have been socialized since the inception of this country. Our socialization leads to a very deep seated and corrupt way of thinking, a societal way of thinking masterminded by the devil himself. This internalization is contrary to who God says we are.

Continued on page 11

## Speaking of Racial Justice BIPOC

**BIPOC** is an acronym that stands for **B**lack, **I**ndigenous, and **P**eople **o**f **C**olor.

*Black* can refer to dark-skinned peoples of Africa, Oceania, and Australia or their descendants, without regard for the lightness or darkness of skin tone, and who were enslaved by white people. *Indigenous*, here, refers to ethnic groups native to the Americas. *People of Color* is an umbrella term for non-white people, especially as they face racism and discrimination in a white dominant culture. This includes Asians and Latinos.

According to the BIPOC Project website, "Using the term promotes the inclusion of all people of color who have also been mistreated, misrepresented and discriminated against for the color of their skin, their culture or their way of life. It unites marginalized communities together, uplifts their voices and highlights all multiracial backgrounds in a way that doesn't erase the identities of other people of color like Black and Indigenous people. It's a way of building a collective community and undoing Native invisibility, anti-Blackness, dismantling white supremacy and advancing racial justice."

Growing in use and awareness during the 2020 George Floyd protests against racism and police brutality, *BIPOC* is meant to emphasize the particular hardships faced by Black and Indigenous people in the US and Canada—especially because Indigenous people often get forgotten in social justice causes and anti-Black racism is particularly strong.

While some people feel BIPOC is more inclusive, others caution against using terms like POC or BIPOC to lump the diverse experiences of different minority groups under the same term. It can obscure the fact that different members of minority groups experience racism and oppression differently. Instead, they advocate for people to take the time to specify who they are referring to, not homogenize them.

Organizations like The BIPOC Project claim that when describing groups of people the important thing is to continue to move towards a more mindful and inclusive society.

**"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." Audre Lorde**

SOURCE: Thebipocproject.org; Acronyms Dictionary Online.

**Sept. Outreach – CORR** continued from page 10.

In order to dismantle racism, we have to first dismantle the disruptive thinking that keeps us from being unified.

**Organizational Strategy:** We establish and provide long term coaching to teams within churches and other institutions. These teams, guided by education and internalization caucusing, enact systemic changes that lead to unraveling racism starting in their own institutions.

To those new to the work, welcome. To those who have been walking the road of anti-racism for years, strength to you. We have been doing this work for years, and the road ahead of us is long. But Christ walks beside us. Let's do our work."

We are grateful to the ULC Endowment for providing funding to enter into a coaching agreement with CORR. The ULC Racial Justice Team is working with the CORR coaches to develop long-term, anti-racism strategic plans and goals for ULC. CORR will also assist ULC to connect with/join with anti-racism efforts within our community.

Listen and watch for information about the next CORR "Understanding Racism" workshop that will be held virtually on Nov. 12 & 13.

*Vicki Anderson and Thom McCurdy  
ULC Racial Justice Team Co-leaders*

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## Rave Reviews for CORR Workshop

Please open your calendars to Nov. 12 and 13 and pencil in the next CORR Training workshop. More details will be available in a few weeks, but we want you to seriously consider joining this next workshop. Several participants from the April session share their experiences below.

Things that I appreciate about the CORR training: The workshop provided a framework for not only learning about the history of racism in the US, but also how it affects us today. The workbook provides lots of resource materials that I am using to continue to educate myself. Being able to participate in the Lansing CORR bimonthly caucuses helps me to explore how racism has affected how I think and act, and as a result move forward in my anti-racism journey. I highly recommend the workshop -- I have attended twice and likely will attend again. It is a forum for meeting other Christians in the Lansing area who want to better understand racism. ~Vicki Anderson

This was a very powerful and enlightening workshop that helped me to better grasp the depths and roots of systemic racism in the ongoing history of our country. The experience was sickening in better understanding what people of color

have experienced and still experience, and at the same time it was empowering in learning how we might work to be anti-racist. I'm very grateful for having had this experience. ~Pastor Gary



I am still processing the information shared with me over the two-day CORR workshop. One of the things I keep thinking about is how dedicated the coaches were in guiding us through the material and then through

the different break out groups. It must take tremendous energy to lead this work, and they stayed on task throughout the two days giving up any opportunity to enjoy the beautiful weather we had that weekend.

I came away realizing how much I still don't know. I was able to pick up a copy of the book *Caste* the following week which is helping to reinforce many of the things mentioned in the workshop. I feel like I am on a difficult journey as I learn the depths to which people of color have been deprived of abundant life in a society I was raised to believe was the most just in the history of the world. I am blessed to belong to a faith community which is willing to take this journey with me.

~Beth Rahe

We were a group of 23 women and men, including our awesome

presenters - Victoria and Hannah. We were BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and White members of congregations of various denominations from Lansing, Grand Rapids and other cities. The two days were a combination of listening, educating my head, inspiring my heart and challenging me. Victoria and Hannah created a "space" of welcoming, safety and honesty and presented great content on racial justice. I highly recommend people attend this workshop when it becomes available.

~Miriam M. K. Bunge

The strength of the workshop was hearing from Victoria Proctor Gibbs, an American from African descent. She is an authentic voice with personal experiences of being black in Michigan. Too often we read about racism from white speakers and writers. This was the strength of the workshop. Secondly, the bibliography in the manual is a treasure for ULC leaders who want to share continual growth in understanding racism. The weakness of the workshop days was the absence of hearing about the racial historical abuse in American Christianity. The ELCA is a beacon in America, and I am proud to belong to a church that practices charity but also is committed to justice. Justice ministry means challenging political structures. ~ Rev. Jim Kocher



## Prayers & Squares Chapter 163

# Collecting Materials for Sewing Kits

Prayers and Squares, the “quilting ladies” continue to meet weekly on Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We average 10 ladies and have been working on baby quilts, prayer quilts and Lutheran World Relief quilts. New sewers and non-sewers are always welcome.

Barb Kissling made a Quilt of Valor in February and presented it to her brother-in-law Charles Robinson, during a July visit. Thank you for your service.



Charles Robinson,  
Air Force  
1963 to 1967

This year we are putting together sewing/fabric kits for Lutheran World Relief. Sewing is a valuable skill that can help men and women earn reliable income. Lutheran World Relief Fabric Kits provide fabric and thread for

vocational training programs teaching sewing and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing businesses. They are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. Your careful adherence to our kit assembly guidelines will ensure that all LWR Fabric Kits are useful, consistent and fair.

Each kit needs to have the following:

- 2 pieces of cotton or cotton/blend fabric, 42-45” wide, 3 yards each
- 2 spools of neutral or matching thread



We are asking the congregation to help us with this project. Bring your donation to the church office before mid-September. Or if you make a cash donation, we will be happy to ‘shop’ for you.

*Ann Booren*

## Making a Life-Long Difference

For over 25 years, Kids Hope USA has provided a proven, life-changing program through church-school partnerships that train and equip mentors to reach kids in public schools who are in-need of caring, reliable, one-on-one relationships.



There are children at our local school, Fairview Elementary, who could use our unconditional love and attention. They may be experiencing the loss of a parent, family separation or divorce, bullying or academic challenges.

The child may be struggling socially – not fitting in and just needing a consistent friend who lets them know they are special. The reason doesn’t matter, but the child does. Each child is referred by a parent or teacher as someone who has potential but could use a little extra one-on-one attention in order to blossom and grow.

Our school is asking for mentors, people who are willing to walk alongside a child – play, read, do a

craft or maybe even throw a football. It’s simple really – just be a friend. The time commitment is only one-hour a week. You’ll be trained and well-supported as you faithfully serve a precious child.

Please let me know of your interest. I am happy to answer your questions and provide you with additional information.

*Barbara Kissling*  
*ULC Kids Hope USA Director*  
[barbkissling@gmail.com](mailto:barbkissling@gmail.com)

## Social Action Team Seeks Local Benevolence Candidates

Each year, the Social Action Team seeks candidates to receive grants from the Local Benevolence Fund. The Local Benevolence Fund is part of the ULC budget, and the Social Action Team makes recommendations to Council on how to disburse the funds. This year we have \$4,000 to disburse. In the past, we have limited individual grants to a maximum of \$1,000.



If you know of a worthy nonprofit doing important work in our area, please contact me at [bryanrahe@comcast.net](mailto:bryanrahe@comcast.net) or 517-485-4864 to submit a name and address or to obtain a grant application form. Please submit names of candidates by Oct.1. We are especially seeking candidates addressing pandemic and racial justice issues.

*Bryan Rahe*

## From the President

# Innovation and Caring for One Another

I recently heard from a member who resides in Independence Village. She said how much she appreciates the livestream worship opportunity that helps keep her connected with ULC, especially given that she is unsure about a return to in-person worship. Council heard from the mom of a nine-month-old how wary she is of the COVID variant these days, and how

important the online connection is for her family.



Council is grateful for a caring congregation abiding in safety guidelines for in-person worship: [ULC Return Plan and Guidelines](#). And we

give enthusiastic thanks for the many volunteers and staff preparing for live streaming from the sanctuary

later in September, so that technology is ready when we can meet there safely. We look forward to including our neighbors near and far who depend on connecting virtually for regular worship when we gather in-person at 10 a.m. on Sundays.

*Nancy Lindman  
ULC President*



## Council Notes

ULC Council met via Zoom on June 17, July 15, and August 19, 2021:

The following are some highlights:

- Giving remains strong
- Mortgage paydown matching has resulted in

the payoff date moving to late summer 2022!

- Council voted to approve the screen placement, per screen team's recommendation.
- Accepted Personnel Committee recommendations for Lead Pastor Review Team
- Council is targeting a September return to in-person worship, dependent upon

developments with the pandemic. Cases need to be under the threshold identified.

- The "Congregations Lead" application has been submitted.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Dec. 5.

*Emily Ubel  
Council Secretary*

## Attendance

June 6: 374; 55 at communion  
June 13: 1056  
June 20: 822; 60 at communion  
June 27: 1002  
  
July 4: 726; 45 at communion  
July 11: 948  
July 18: 928; 45 at communion  
July 25: 562

## Lead Management Team Notes

**Lead Pastor's Report—Pastor Gary:** All staff reviews are completed. A meeting with Jim Lorenz, Janine and John Dale Smith, and Lisa Whiting-Dobson (MSU professor and producer of TV for St Thomas in East Lansing) was very helpful. Lisa is willing to work with us to get our streaming going. She also suggested recruiting an intern to work with us, which we are looking into. We continue to work toward being ready to live stream in mid-September.

**August Treasurer's Report – Will Mahoney:** Income is still ahead of expenses. The mortgage campaign was very successful, and the new retirement date will be July-Aug. 2022.

**Social Action—Bryan Rahe:** We served 115 families in May and had 30 volunteers. The food distribution served

73 families in July. This was down considerably from previous months. We are in need of volunteers to help.

**Grounds — Norm Jolin, Sr.:** A new landscape design is being developed for the Memorial Garden. We are participating in a MSU research study focused on urban prairie restoration. We will grow a short grass prairie near our butterfly garden. More volunteers are needed to "adopt" the several gardens that we have on site.

**Bicycle Ministry—Gary Garbarino:** I am working with Dan Winter at Friendship House to provide bicycles to residents and others. Several bikes have been donated this summer and I have been "tuning them up" as needed and delivering them to Friendship House. I am planning to attend the open house on Aug. 28.

Continue on page 14.

## ULC Applies for ELCA Grant

As you may have heard me mention in worship, ULC has applied to be one of 50 ELCA congregations to take part in ELCA Congregations Lead Initiative. The ELCA website describes the initiative this way: “. . . a new, two-year program that will gather a cohort of 50 congregations from across the ELCA to unleash and harness their collective genius and discover new and useful ministry innovations. . . . If your congregation is selected to participate in the Congregations Lead Initiative, your team can expect to:

- Learn how to innovate for the future through semi-annual learning events.
- Conduct multiple ministry experiments.
- Train with world-renowned innovation and ministry thought leaders.



- Receive personalized group coaching for support and guidance.
- Network with a cohort of other congregations doing similar innovation work.
- Be eligible to receive a spark grant for the purpose of conducting a ministry experiment.”

This is an exciting opportunity, one that could have a profound impact on our ministry. As a university congregation, it makes sense that we would be on the forefront of learning, growing, and innovating as we find new ways to be the church in a post-pandemic world. Our Congregations Lead Team will be comprised of Joy Oslund, Annaliese

Marks, Alex Dethloff, Sue Kamens, and myself.

As part of the application process, we were asked for three community references who could speak to our work/relationship with the community. Our three references are Imam Sohail Chaudhry from the Islamic Center, Emily Brown, Principal of Forest View where we have our Kids Hope ministry, and Dan Winter, Director of Friendship House MSU. All three were more than happy to do this for us, but Emily Brown was especially happy because she so appreciates what ULC is doing with Forest View and Kids Hope.

We should hear if we are accepted into this new venture by September 15. Hopefully we'll soon have some exciting news to share.

*Pastor Gary*

**Lead Management** continued from page 13

**Welcome Team—Linda Trevarthen:** We now have an active and thriving Virtual Worship Greeter sub-team, led by Emma Repp and including Clarke Anderson, Miriam Bunge, Patrick Milligan, Wei Dong, Joy Oslund, Bryan Rahe, Terrie Reinoehl, Emma Repp, Augusta Shikongo, Chad Waldron, and Tony Waldron. If you are interested in becoming a virtual greeter, please contact Emma Repp for more information.

**Communications Team—Amy Wagenknecht:** Lifetouch (producer of our current pictorial directory) is no longer doing church directories and as a result the Lifetouch digital directory is no longer available. The Realm digital directory is still active and being used by the pastors. Linda Trevarthen researched other digital church directory options and determined OnlineChurch Directories.com might be a good option. It appears to be user friendly on both Android and iPhones.

The Racial Justice Communication Sub-group requested the Communication Team create guidelines for submission of videos and other PR materials for the Outreach of the Month collections.

### Last Chance for 2021 Endowment Grant Proposals

There is still time to submit a grant proposal for the 2021 distributions from the ULC Campus Ministry and General Endowment Funds. Grant proposals must be submitted on the Endowment Application no later than **Sept. 30, 2021**.

The ULC Endowment Program includes two separate endowment funds - one is dedicated totally to campus ministry efforts and the other is a general endowment fund. Each year, funds are awarded to organizations and projects that reflect the mission and vision of ULC.

*Larry Wagenknecht  
Endowment Committee Chair*

## Our Own Immigration Story

ULC has its own immigration story. It begins with an entry in the July 13, 1951 Council minutes: “Pastor Wolf received a letter from Lutheran Charities, Detroit asking us to give assurance for a displaced family. This family is of Polish background and consists of the father, who is an electrician, the mother, who is a seamstress and a child. Mr. Aven moved that we give the assurance that we will take care of this family. Seconded and carried.”

Listed in a 1951 directory is Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Wilczewski and Magdalena. Their story is told in the November 1951 issue of the *College Lutheran News*.

### “New Neighbors

Many of you have been wondering what the status is of our ‘new neighbors,’ the Wilczewski’s. After their arrival, a place was found for them on U.S. 16, west of the Drive-in Theater. At first it seemed as though the arrangements would be quite satisfactory, since another location in town could not be found, and opportunities for working off a part of the rental were to be offered.

It soon proved that this arrangement was unsatisfactory, so at the beginning of their second month in our country – Nov. 6 – a new furnished apartment was found at 334 Charles Street, where they are now living.

Mr. Wilczewski is working as a maintenance man for the College. Employment in the electrical field, in which he has considerable experience, must wait until he is more able to handle our language;



Ann Street church, home of College Lutheran congregation at the time of this story.

meantime arrangements are being made to teach him the electrical code with the hope that he may be able to locate additional part-time work in his own field. Mrs. Wilczewski was a Master Tailor in Germany and is pursuing that trade in addition to her housework. Arrangements have been made with a local tailoring establishment to have her do some alterations and tailoring. Also, any work which our members or friends have for her can be brought directly to her home at 334 Charles, if instructions are carefully written and pinned to the garment. Her work is excellent.

A word of gratitude is due to all who have so generously helped resettle this couple and their three-year old daughter. The Radimersky’s and the Aven’s have been particularly helpful because of their knowledge of German and their fine interest in the welfare of the Wilczewski’s. We also want to mention the aid given by the Weiss’s, the Bubolz’s, and the Larsen’s as well as the generosity of many of our members and friends who have given not only of their clothing, food, linens, utensils, and money, but also their time and interest. An additional offering for the aid of the Wilczewski’s will be received at the

Thanksgiving Service. We encourage your generosity since our financial aid to them in these first months of their new life in America has amounted to approximately \$100 a month. The words of our Lord apply well to our interest in the Wilczewski’s – ‘Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto Me.’”

A 1972 directory lists as a member Mrs. Magdalena Wilczewski.

### More to the Story . . .

However, there is much more to the story. In 1958 Mrs. Wilczewski sponsored her son, daughter-in-law and two granddaughters to come to the United States from Germany. Two of them are still active members of University Lutheran Church – Gertraud Fleischer and Vera Shaw. Acts of kindness can reach far and wide and touch many people’s lives. How fortunate we are that this act of kindness brought Gertraud and Vera to us.

Please come back next month to read the follow-up story by Bill Trevarthen.

*Connie Lenkowski*

### Football Parking Resumes!

Parking for MSU Football games will be available:

Sept. 11 Youngstown St.  
Sept. 25 Nebraska  
Oct. 2 Western Kentucky  
Oct. 30 U of M  
Nov. 13 Maryland  
Nov. 27 Penn State

## August Birthdays

- 1 Marcia Schultz
- 3 Eston Dawson-Baglien  
Roy Weber  
Joanne Boettcher  
Will Carlson
- 5 Dan Christian  
Corbin Davis
- 8 Kendall Bubolz  
Ruth Gaudard
- 9 Jesse Archer
- 10 Cathy Lazar  
Nick Guilfoyle
- 12 Aaron Williams
- 13 Frederick Fensel
- 14 George Bubolz  
Samuel Fitzgerald
- 15 Coreen Williams
- 16 Loretta Geisen  
Grace Sype
- 17 Thomas Wanagat
- 18 Carl Ericksen
- 19 Thomas Kissling
- 21 Michael Kruger
- 23 Sherry Corwin
- 25 Mailee Greiter
- 27 Lynn Kotnik
- 28 Samantha Ernst  
Laura Kruger  
Sue Martin
- 29 Stephanie Hall



## August Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Emmett & Karen  
Braselton  
Lois Mummaw & Greg  
Hill
- 2 Adam & Susan Fisher
- 6 Donna & Gary Carl
- 8 Justin & Alicia Barterian  
Jeff & Wendy Guilfoyle
- 9 Dawn Newton & Tim  
Dalton  
Tom & Diane Wanagat
- 10 Matt & Emily Uebel  
Barry & Lanae Williams
- 15 Rick & Deanna Milligan
- 16 Laura Appel & Gary  
Garbarino

- 17 Jeff Williams & Joy  
Whitten
- 18 Norm & Kirstan Jolin
- 21 Gary Dawson & Julie  
Baglien  
Diane & John Goddeeris  
Richard & Jennifer Tracy  
Robert & Anne Smith
- 24 Gary & Loretta Geisen
- 26 Steve & Kristi Sneed
- 27 Dave & Kristie Wiggert
- 30 Jerry & Nancy Lindman
- 31 Bryn & Pr. Haley Vay  
Craig & Cathy Lazar

## September Birthdays

- 6 Paul Kindel
- 7 Brandon Baswell
- 8 Jonathan Wagenknecht
- 10 Dale Harpstead
- 12 Karen Holden
- 14 Louise Harder  
Max Helser
- 15 Cathy Clugston
- 16 Matthew Uebel
- 18 Lindsay Sadler  
Paul Kotnik  
Craig Satterlee
- 19 Cindy Baswell  
Sandy Davis  
Lisa Swem
- 20 Marilyn Johnson

- 21 Russel Erickson  
Robert Smith
- 22 Gabrielle Gallagher
- 24 James Cox
- 25 Kathy Bracken  
Bryan Wagenknecht
- 26 Jeffrey Guilfoyle  
Mark Johnson  
Adelyn Karcher
- 27 Donna Carl  
Henry McPhall
- 28 Augusta Archer
- 29 Vera Shaw
- 30 Phyllis Kost

## September Wedding Anniversaries

- 7 David & Debbie Gift
- 12 Dale & Mary Harpstead  
73 Years!  
Jay & Myra Kim
- 16 Andrew Hagman & Erin  
Frisch  
Bryan & Brie McPhall  
Craig & Wanda Ophaug
- 17 Mark & Marilyn Johnson
- 18 David & Cindy Ramsey
- 24 Jesse & Augusta Archer  
Travis and Tali Hylen
- 30 Jordan & Britny Pollard

## Our ULC Family Around the World

This past spring a Prayer Quilt and card were mailed to Dr. Dao Van Vy in her native country of Vietnam. Vy is a member of ULC who joined us while she was working on her PhD. at MSU. She specialized in multicultural education. After receiving her PhD., Vy accepted a position on the faculty at Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The quilt and prayers were sent, so she would feel the love and support of her ULC family. We especially prayed for her and her family's safety during the pandemic and for comfort for her and her children, as her children remain in the USA attending Michigan State. Upon receiving the quilt and card, Vy was overwhelmed and brought to tears. As she read the card, she visualized the faces of those signing the card



Left: Vy with the quilt from Prayers & Squares.  
Above: Vy in front of the Tan Dinh Church in Viet Nam.

and tried to remember the sound of their voices. She is thankful to be part of the ULC family and expresses her deep appreciation to all those who were involved in this endeavor, from the quilters to those who send prayers in her direction and all of her friends.

The beautiful quilt arrived on her first anniversary of being a professor and that timing was very meaningful and a great gift for her. The photos include a photo of Vy at home and in front of the Tan Dinh Church that she attends. The church was closed due to Covid restrictions, but she negotiated a minute of time to get a photo taken. We continue to pray for her in the midst of a Covid surge in Vietnam and pray for energy and strength as she teaches and mentors her students.

*Bryan Rahe*



# September

<p>1 9-4p Office Open 9:00a Communications Team-Zoom Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* 4:30p Lead Management-Conference</p> <p>2 9-4p Office Open</p> <p>5 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook 11:45a Outdoor Communion-ULC south lot</p> <p>6 Labor Day</p> <p>7 9-4p Office Open 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom 10:00a Prayers &amp; Squares-Fellowship 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom</p> <p>8 9-4p Office Open Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* 4:00p Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom*</p> <p>9 9-4p Office Open 9:30a Brunch Bunch-EL IHOP</p> <p>12 10:00a Sunday Worship-Facebook 1:30p Sons of Norway-Fireside</p> <p>10 5:00p Friday@Five-ULC north lawn</p> <p>13 4:30p Tight Knit-Fireside</p> <p>14 9-4p Office Open 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom 10:00a Prayers &amp; Squares-Fellowship 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom 6:30p Racial Justice Team-Zoom*</p> <p>15 9-4p Office Open 9:30a Amnos Circle-Zoom* Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* 1:00p Rhodon Circle Bible Study-Fellowship 4:00p Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom* 6:30p ULC Council-Zoom*</p>	<p>16 9-4p Office Open 10:00a Book Club-ULC (location TDA)</p> <p>17 5:00p Friday@Five-ULC north lawn</p> <p>19 10:00a Worship-Facebook</p> <p>20 4:30p Tight Knit-Fireside</p> <p>21 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom 9-4p Office Open 10:00a Prayers &amp; Squares-Fellowship 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom 12:30p Lychnion Circle-Fireside</p> <p>22 9-4p Office Open Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* 4:00p Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom*</p> <p>23 9-4p Office open 10:30a RJ: Education-Zoom 1:00p RJ: Communication-Zoom 4:30p Food Movers Distribution-Drive thru</p> <p>24 5:00p Friday@Five-ULC north lawn</p> <p>26 10:00a Sunday Worship-ULC/Facebook</p> <p>27 4:30p Tight Knit-Fireside</p> <p>28 7:30a Tuesday Morning Bible Study-Zoom 9-4p Office Open 10:00a Prayers &amp; Squares-Fellowship 12:30p Staff Meeting-Zoom 5:00p FAN Board-Library 7:00p FAN-Fellowship 7:00p Pub Theology-Zoom*</p> <p>29 9-4p Office Open Noon Lectio Divina-Zoom* 4:00p Worship Wednesday for Kids-Zoom*</p> <p>30 9-4p Office Open</p>
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\* Zoom link contacts: Choir - Janine Smith; Tuesday Study - Jim Kiefer; Pub Theology - Britny; Lectio Divina - Britny; Worship Wednesday for Kids - Pastor Haley Vay; Council Meeting - Nancy Lindman; Amnos Circle - Marilyn Johnson



**Thank you** to everyone who prayed for my granddaughter's fiancé, Josh Winowiecki. He is now in remission. -Jan Mace Sollenberger

**Thank you** for all the get well wishes through cards and prayers from my fall that resulted in a fractured arm. My arm has healed and I am currently attending physical therapy - Darra Haase (Steve too!!) ❤️

**Thank you** for all of your cards, prayers, donations, words of condolence and support, and sharing of special memories. - The family of Marilyn Wagenknecht



The deadline for the October Lux is **Friday, Sept. 17.**

E-mail articles to Amy Wagenknecht at [amylarryw@comcast.net](mailto:amylarryw@comcast.net) and Britny Pollard at [ulcsec@ulcel.org](mailto:ulcsec@ulcel.org) or place them in the Lux mailbox in the ULC office. Articles may be edited for size or readability, but you will be contacted if significant changes are made. Keep those wonderful photos and articles coming! Thanks!



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 Permit No. 45

***Change service requested***

**Gary A. Bunge**  
 Lead Pastor

**Haley Vay Beaman**  
 Associate Pastor

**Janine Novenske Smith**  
 Director of Music

**Britny Pollard**  
 Administrative Assistant

**Gary Carl**  
 Financial Administrator

**Mary Letvenow**  
 Event Coordinator

**Kristie Wiggert**  
**Julie Baglien**  
 Organists

**Louise Paquette**  
 Director of Handbells

Michigan Refugee Hope is holding a charity golf outing as a fundraiser on September 8th at the Wheatfield Valley Golf Club in Williamston. We urgently need golf teams to register as well as golf hole sponsors to step forward. Please see the accompanying flyer. If you need help registering to play or to sponsor a hole you may contact me at [bryandrahe@gmail.com](mailto:bryandrahe@gmail.com) or 5174854864 in addition to contact info given on the flyer. The funds raised will go to help refugee youth here in our area.

Bryan Rahe

**Michigan Refugee Hope**  
**GOLF OUTING**  
 Four Person Scramble

**September 8** | **Wheatfield Valley Golf Club**  
 Wednesday | 1600 Linn Rd., Williamston, MI 48895

Registration: 9:00 am • Tee-off: 10:00 am • Cost: \$75  
 This includes entry into all events, Shotgun Start 18-holes of golf, riding cart, Hamburgers, jumbo dogs, 2/chips and fountain beverage at the turn, and chance to win various prizes!

Longest Drive - Closest to the Pin - Shortest Drive  
 Hole-in-One

For more information call Rev. Ellen Schoepf at 517-974-5570

**To register visit: <https://bit.ly/3n5JFtT>**