

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The second Sunday of each month is sharing Sunday for Oasis. People can put paper products, personal hygiene items, or non-perishable food items in the back of the church. Please see Sheila for any questions.

The third Wednesday of each month at noon, the singles group meets at the church. People are asked to please bring a dish to pass for lunch. Please see Barb for any questions.

The third Thursday of every other month is the Council Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be November 21st.

On Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 6p.m. there will be a Thanksgiving potluck at the church. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

The annual charge conference will be December 8, 2024, at the Cadillac UMC. More details will be provided later.

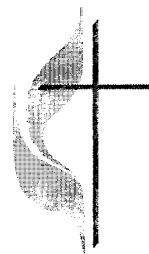
The second Tuesday of the month is Ladies Monthly Lunch at the downtown Cadillac UMC. Please bring your own lunch, a friend, and meet in the fellowship hall at noon.

FINANCES

RECEIPTS FOR AUGUST:	\$3,141.00
DISBURSEMENTS FOR AUGUST:	\$3,740.68
RECEIPTS YEAR TOTAL:	\$31,495.06
DISBURSEMENTS YEAR TOTAL:	\$34,802.46

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 12	TAMARA TUROS
NOVEMBER 18	DENNY SMITH
NOVEMBER 24	RICK MANNOR
NOVEMBER 29	KAREN PETERSON



Cadillac South Community United Methodist Church

11800 47 Mile Rd. Cadillac, MI 49601 (231) 775-3067

www.scommunityumc.org

November Newsletter 2024

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Pastor Karen Sorden

Email: ksorden@sbcglobal.net

Cell Phone: (231) 282-0433

Downtown Cadillac Office Phone: (231) 775-5362

Office Hours at Cadillac UMC:

Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sabbath Day: Friday

Vision Statement

We are a family united by God's love: serving, sharing, and growing together. It is our mission to call people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Dearest Friends,

“Gratitude goes beyond the ‘mine’ and the ‘thine’ and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy.”

Henri Nouwen

November is typically the month we take some time to notice and celebrate gratitude. Although there has been a long history of celebrating Thanksgiving in November, it wasn't until 1863, in the middle of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national holiday of Thanksgiving.

We often mark our thanksgiving by what we have, by the things in our lives for which we are grateful. We might consider ourselves blessed that we have a loving family, or plenty of food and clean water, so many things we take for granted that others around the world often live without.

And while it is important that we recognize the good things in our lives and remember our sisters and brothers who might not have good things, is this gratitude of comparison really at the heart of thanksgiving?

The bold beginning of Thanksgiving as a national holiday in the middle of the Civil War reminds us that we can have gratitude even in the midst of difficulty, that we can find blessing even in the midst of pain. Perhaps our blessings have less to do with the list of all the things we have and more

to do with the very gift of life, the gift of love, and the gift of God's loving presence with us.

Mary embodies this spirit when she sings in thanksgiving for her blessings while dealing with the fallout of her pregnancy with Jesus: a fiancé who isn't sure if he can trust her and stay with her and a community judging her harshly as an unwed teenage mother in a time when that was considered unacceptable.

All that is true, and yet she sings: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed” (Luke 1:46-48). Her spirit rejoices, and she boldly claims herself as blessed in the midst of it all because she trusts that God is with her and doing something amazing.

How can we cultivate this practice of gratitude not through comparisons but through the awareness of God's presence with us this Thanksgiving season?

As you reflect back over the year or perhaps over your life, where have you seen and noticed God's presence with you? May we sing with Mary this Thanksgiving season, aware and grateful for the ways God is present and at work in our lives.

Grateful and blessed,

Pastor Karen