

FIRST CONNECTION

From the Pastor



Mother's Day gives people around the world the opportunity to shower the women who've loved and cared for them with gifts and appreciation. Small children draw pictures or create homemade cards to express their love for their moms. Older children who live far away from their mothers may send a card through the mail

or call/video chat with their mom's on Mother's Day to let them know how much they love and appreciate their mothers. Still other children may buy flowers or take their moms out for dinner on this special day.

When the Bible was written there was no national holiday called "Mother's Day," but the Bible does give us some great advice on how we are to treat our mothers. Leviticus 19:3 says, "Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father." We are to revere our mothers! What does revere mean? Well according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary revere means to show devoted deferential honor to someone, to regard as worthy of great honor.

For most of us, our mothers have loved us more than any other woman in this world. They have toiled and sacrificed to make our lives better. For their life, love, and sacrifices may we always be grateful. May we cherish, respect, and honor our mothers! May everything you do and say - bring joy to your mother's heart and honor to her name.

This Mother's Day (and everyday) may we be grateful for our moms!

Blessings Pastor Dan



The Young & the Rest of Us is a Young Adult Small Group that meets every Wednesday, 7-9 PM. Currently, we are meeting at the church in the Youth Center for food, fellowship, and Bible study. We also go out to eat or down to Silver Beach for some

fun. If you would like to join us, we would love to see you become a part of this small group!

Monday Night Small Group at the Colthorp's Home

Every Monday a group of young adults meets at Pastor Dan's house for snacks, games, prayer, and Bible study. If you are between the ages of 18-39 years of age, we would love to have you join us! We meet from 7:00-9:00 PM. Pastor Dan's address is 5835 Demorrow Rd, Stevensville.

Sunday, June 5 – One Service with Catered Meal to follow!



On Sunday, June 5th, we will have one service at 10:00 AM. Following the service we will have a free catered meal in the Fellowship Hall. Our way of saying, "Thanks for being a part of this church family!" We hope you will join us for this day of worship, food, and fellowship!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Blossomland
CROP HUNGER WALK

MAY 15, 2022

SAINT JOSEPH, MICHIGAN

1:30PM Reg/2:15 PM WALK
OPENING CEREMONY 2:00 PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2001 NILES AVE., ST JOSEPH

Crophungerwalk.org/saintjosephmi

<http://facebook.com/BlossomlandCROPHungerWalk>

Online giving: <https://www.cropwalk.orgsaintjosephmi>

Make checks to Church World Service

For info: Contact: Treasurer Diane Goodman at
Diane.e.goodman@gmail.com

There are sign up packets on the Opportunities Desk

Church Rummage Update

Greetings everyone, I had several of you reach out to me regarding when the next Church rummage sale will be. I just wanted to let you know that as of right now, we have no plans of doing another rummage sale for the time being. While the last sale was one of our most successful we've had in years, we just could not get the amount of volunteers needed to set one up and work the sale. So until I am positive that we will be in a place where you would have ample volunteers, we will not be scheduling a rummage sale. If you have things you'd like to donate, we would recommend taking them to the local Goodwill, Salvation Army or Mosaic Resale shop. Thanks Wil Flaherty

Contacts for Adult Sunday School & Bible Studies:

Barb Petzke: (269) 429-5962 or b_petzke@hotmail.com

Bill Funk: williamfunk@sbcglobal.net

Judy Thompson: (269) 983-7641 or 1249jmathompson@gmail.com

Lorie Kraus: lorieannkraus@gmail.com

Sit and Stitch - Is a prayer shawl ministry that meets on the 1st Thursday of each month. Join our group on May 5th at 2:30pm in the library. If you would like to learn to knit, contact Anne Hahn at 269-325-1326 or Judy Thompson at 269-325-7641. They will also let you know what needles and yarn to bring!



Sewing Ministry -

In May, we will sew on either the 14th or 28th or maybe both. Please indicate which works best for you when you sign up. Join us as we are the hands and heart of Jesus to those who need our projects. Bring your lunch, sewing machine, pins and enthusiasm. If your machine is not portable, we have one you can use. Projects are ready to be sewn! We welcome non-sewers as well. It's always nice to have someone help with the pressing, which allows us the opportunity to continue to sew.

Contact Barb Petzke (429-5962) See you there!





In April we returned to our turkey/rice/vegetable soup. Our recipe made 130 servings. Mark Lester did the preliminary cooking of the rice, turkey and vegetables. On Monday, Jim

O'Haver and Keith Foote finished the soup at the Kitchen while Elaine Graves and Ron and Barb Petzke packed the bags and cookies at church. The bags were taken to the Kitchen and the Petzkes helped put the soup into the containers and clean up. Our bakers included Gloria Muth, Julie Evans, Elaine Graves, Dave and Sue Lea and Lynn Stover. Elaine Graves also added a bag that contained a message about Easter and candy. In addition to the soup and cookies, the patrons also received applesauce, trail mix, crackers and condiments. The Kitchen provides bottled water.

We are excited to return to in-person service in May and to see the people that we are privileged to feed! That will bring a change to how many people we need and the supplies we need. **On May 9, we will use the cookies we have in the freezer but we also need (6) six 9x13 inch frosted cakes, eight (8) containers of juice and one gallon of milk. Please sign up at the Opportunities Desk! We will need six workers at the Soup Kitchen.** After Easter, the Soup Kitchen was surprised to be feeding 150 people a day. So that will be our planning number.

Special thanks to everyone who contributes to the Hunger Pot the first Sunday of the month to purchase the things that we need to buy.

We're thinking of developing a new Soup Kitchen system of teams. If you'd like to know more or are interested, please email John Graves at gravesjm@comcast.net

The Church Calendar can be found on our website:

www.sjfirstumc.org

Midwest Mission Distribution Center Mission Trip

September 11-14, we are planning a trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Springfield, IL. At this time we will deliver the projects that we've completed since our last trip. We will work in the center doing whatever is needed for two and a half days, in whatever capacity the center needs at the time that we're there. You might get to build desks, work on sewing machines or bikes or pack different kits - personal dignity kits, school bags, layettes, emergency cleaning kits. After our work time, we enjoy fellowship and exploring the Springfield area. Our team of 10 is complete, however we have a waiting list. If you'd like to go, please contact Barb Petzke 269-429-5962 or b_petzke@hotmail.com to be added. The other church scheduled for that time may change their reservation number and then we could take more. If you'd like to learn more, please speak to Mark or Lynda Acker, Ron or Barb Petzke, Keith or Renee Foote, Will Flaherty, Elaine Graves, Mark or Julie Lester, Les or Marilyn Herrman. If you'd like to learn more about what the Midwest Mission Distribution Center does, visit <https://midwestmission.org>.

Capital Improvements -

Things are really moving in the HVAC project! The inside work on the mini splits in the rooms off Fellowship Hall is completed. If you go into any of those rooms, you will notice that they have a ventilation grill over the door for the air exchange and each room has its own thermostat. Just this week, Arrow Roofing returned to insure that the new platforms for the roof portion of the system would not hurt our new roof. The pad has been poured in the courtyard in preparation for the new unit. The next focus will be on the removal of the old air handler in the "basement". Before the new ductwork is installed, the existing ductwork in the Sanctuary will be cleaned. We are also anticipating the installation of the new electrical panel!

Thank You all for your continued support!



Easter Flowers Given in Honor or Memory



Shirley Johnson in Honor of Savannah Tucker
Flo Taber-Brown in Memory of Warren Brown
Keith Bundy in Memory of my mother, Shirley Bundy
Carol Clark in Memory of Art Clark
Terri Davis in Honor of my family
Terri Davis in Honor of my church Family
Susie Ferry in Memory of my father, Ivor Andrews
Russ & Anne Hahn in Memory of Gene Robinson
Mark & Lynda Acker in Honor of our parents
Mark & Lynda Acker in Honor of our children
Mark & Lynda Acker in Honor of our church family
Keith & Renee Foote in Memory of Jan Schadler
Keith & Renee Foote in Memory of Gene Robinson
Keith & Renee Foote in Memory of Keith's mom, Janet Foote
Bev & Dave Gould in Memory of Bev's parents David & Pat Fister and sister Linda Schrubba
The Merritt Family in Memory of beloved family and cherished friends
Pat & Sue O'Neil in Memory of James & Rita O'Neil
Pat & Sue O'Neil in Memory of Hilda & James LaBair
Miriam Pede in Memory of loving Christian parents
Ron & Barb Petzke in Honor of our children - Cheryl & Paul Havens, Laura Vennie & Charles Stohrer,
Melissa & Josh Beckmann
Ron & Barb Petzke in Honor of our grandchildren Liz, Landon, Ollie & Emmy
Barb Pullins in Memory of Bob Pullins & Greg Pullins
Dennis, Rhonda & Aaron Rennhack in Memory of Don & Shirley Hughes and Lorraine Rennhack
Scott & Kimberly Risk in Memory of Kim's dad ,Allen Brown
Scott & Kimberly Risk in Memory of Kim's grandma, Nora Brown
Barbara Russell in Honor of Donald Russell
Barbara Russell in Honor of Nick & Shirley Auringer
The Schadler Family in Honor of Bruce Schadler's 80th Birthday
Bryce, Melinda, Blane, Alena & MK Schadler in Memory of Jan Schadler
Blair, Stephanie, Brandon, Blake & Samantha Schadler in Memory of Jan Schadler
Andrew & Nicole Schmidtman & kids in Memory of Nancy Schmidtman and Angel Schmidtman
Andrew, Nicole Schmidtman & kids in Memory of Lillian Yeager
Ed Schrag in Memory of Dee Schrag
Lynn & Dale Stover in Memory of Anthony Stover and Jerry Akins
Judith Thompson in Honor of Monday Night Women's Bible Study

small groups

Join a Small Group for deepening of friendships and growing in your faith!

- Bill Funk's Connection Group – Sundays at 11:00 AM (online) - This Study is N.T. Wright's "Surprised by Hope". There is a study guide and book with this study, but those are optional.
- Women's Bible Study: Mondays, 5:45 PM in the church Library
- Stoke Youth Group for teens in 6th - 12th grades meets Sundays, 7:00 - 8:30PM in the youth center
- Young Adult Group: Mondays, 7-9 PM at Pastor Dan's Home (5835 Demorrow Rd., Stevensville). This group prays for each other, studies God's Word, and then plays card games. We love meeting new people and making new friends, so please consider joining this group.
- Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays, Noon (online)
- The Young & the Rest of Us meets every Wednesday night 7-9pm in the Youth Center at the church. This group is for any person or couple that is between the age of 18-39, If you would like to join us, simply show up at 7:00pm on Wednesday!
- Sit and Stitch - prayer shawl ministry meets on the 1st Thursday of each month.
- Women's Bible Study - Thursdays, 9:30 AM in Rooms 306 and 307.
- Sewing Ministry - watch the sign up sheet for the next meeting in May.
- Men's Bible Study: Saturdays, 8:00 AM at church
- Other groups to consider: Chancel Choir, Worship Band, Love in a Card, the Missions Team, the Education Team, or the Evangelism Team.



If you would like to start your own small group that meets here at the church or in your home, please contact Pastor Dan at (269) 369-8475. He will do what he can to help you get started and help provide resources to your group.



Whitcomb Services – 4th Wednesday of Every Month!
With the Covid numbers finally being down in our county we have resumed our Worship Service at the Whitcomb. We will meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10:30 AM for a time of singing, praying, receiving communion, with some time for fellowship before and after the service. People from the church and community are welcome to join us. The people at the Whitcomb love having people visit and worship with them.

NEWS

From Our Parish

Just wanted to send out a big hug and thank you to our church family on behalf of the Schadler Family. With the recent loss of my mom and my dad moving in with us, it has obviously been a very challenging and difficult time for us all. The kindness we have felt from our church has helped with the pain we all feel. We have appreciated all the cards, emails, calls, and kind words and dad especially liked all the food. And to everyone who has given me a hug, and let me wipe a tear on their shoulder an extra big thank you, I miss my moms hugs most of all. Thanks to Savannah and her whole crew who helped on the funeral day, your tireless work made one of the worst days ever somehow a little better. The food was great and thanks for the leftovers as the whole family got together that night for dinner, otherwise they probably all would have gone hungry.

Love you all, Blair and the rest of the Jan Schadler clan (Bruce, Bryce, Melinda, Stephanie, Brandon, Blake, Samantha, Blane, Aleena, Makayla)

Just a note of Thanks, after be away from the church for 8 months. I was so HAPPY to be in the house of the Lord on 4/24th and to be so warmly welcomed back by my church family. I so enjoyed all the many cards and calls that I received - each one was so appreciated! This truly is a friendly and loving church family! Peace and Blessings to one and all! Shirley Johnson

Tiffany Lawson, our newest member, is a transfer from St. John UMC in KY. Tiffany is the granddaughter of Rev. John D. Spaulding and the niece of Rev. Thomas Grieb, currently the Pastor of St. John UMC. The Blessing box is one of Tiffany's favorite gifts to give here at church. She ran games for the fall festival and will also for Kids camp this summer. She enjoys volunteering for the Soup Kitchen and would not be the Woman she is without the experiences with some significant key church members and of course her Monday Night ladies. Finally a notable Trustee asked "When will you join?" With the blessing of her family and Rev. Thomas Greib, she is thrilled to be a part of such an amazing community here at St Joe First UMC and says Thank you for welcoming her with open arms and hearts.

Ephesians 3:20/21 and Phillipians 4:7. As her Grandfather said, "Amen and Amen".****



Dear Church Family - There are no words to fully express my gratitude for all the prayers and get well cards with beautiful messages for recovery. Also, thank-you again for the wonderful meals. It was so appreciated when I first came home from the hospital and was too weak to cook. It was also extremely heartfelt to receive a beautiful floral arrangement! I am healing well and gaining more strength every day after surgery. Thank You all! Your Christian love and prayers gave me comfort and peace. I feel the Lords's presence and I look forward to worshiping with you soon! Blessings Cathy Wagner.

At Home

To Grootendorst
Trudy Gillespie

**Brookdale
Senior Living,
Greenville, NC**

Joyce Bliss



Caretel, St. Joseph

Earl Kugle
Vivian Oberheue (no visitors)

Carmel Village, Clovis, CA

Barbara Kiesel

Crown Pointe, Stevensville

Ed Bagatini

Royalton Manor, St. Joseph

Deloris Dettmann
Barbara Richmond

**Shenandoah Valley Westminster-
Canterbury, Winchester, VA**

Dorothy Gray

Whitcomb Towers, St. Joseph

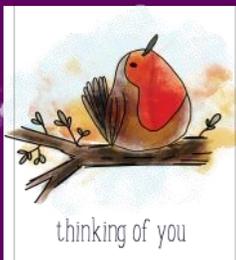
Noreen Sonnenberg
Dorothy Crow
John Helsley
Flo Taber-Brown

Woodland Terrace, Bridgman

Dick Copeland
Jim MacKimmie



Timothy Eichler, Carol Starks,
Nicolaas Worstell, Patricia Panse,
Samuel Partin, Kent Winship,
Erik Jarvis, Dawn Pesko,
Maxine Mock, Jane Hoekwater,
Rachel Adrian, Christopher Babcock,
Vika Moala, Jacob Reese,
Pastor Dan Colthorp,
Kim Jackson, Jon Sleder,
J.D. Busby, Kevin Clark,
Michael Morga, Michael Sinn,
Karen Zabadal, Landon Beckmann,
Sadie Colthorp, Mark Richards,
Hollis Merritt, Theodore Johnson,
Bryce Schadler



Nick Tomaszewski, John Hoffman, Ward Hine, Aiden Zemon (Lou Ann Stelter's nephew), Denise Peterson, Maxine Mock, Don Phillips, Ashlee Eichler, Mary Lesch (Nick Lesch's niece), Barb Carlson's Grandson Josh, Linda Acker's, Sisters Grandson Russell, and our homebound members.

**Please contact the church when you would like to have your name added/removed from the prayer list.*