



Howell First United Methodist Church

Bell Ringer

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

From the Pastor

I remember when 9-11 happened. It was a Tuesday morning and I was at Big Boy restaurant with a table full of pastors. None of us knew anything about what had happened. As I drove home, I began to hear the news of the tragedy. It was shocking. I knew what my response would be, and I followed through. I immediately opened the church up and allowed prayer time to happen throughout the entire week. I knew that God's people would want to be in church praying. That Sunday morning, I had the highest attendance in worship that I ever had at that church. When that tragedy happened, people flocked to the church for comfort and hope and reassurance. We found it within the walls of our churches.

I remember this today because of our current emergency over the coronavirus. It is a major threat to the health of many people, and we are doing our best to combat its spread. In my thirty years of ministry I have never responded to a community need by closing our doors and locking them tight. Maybe that is why it is such a frustrating situation. Those things that bring us reassurance and hope are now closed off from the public. As a pastor I want to offer hope and strength to my flock. I want you to know that I am praying for you. Not just as a group but name by name. On Sunday March 15th from 8 until 11:30 I walked around in our church with the address directory and prayed for every single one of you. I know your needs and I know you wanted to be in that church that day but were not allowed. I hope you felt the church come to you on that day.

Our ultimate trust is not in our money, not in our groceries, not in our buildings. Our trust is in the Lord God, who made the heavens and the earth. Find God on a daily basis in the newly blooming flowers, in the sunrise and sunset, in the clear blue skies and the spring rains. Find God in the outside sanctuaries and look forward to the day when we will gather again in these wonderful areas we call church. I miss all of you and look forward to hearing you sing once again.

"I lift my eyes to the hills-where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth...the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Ps 121

Please be advised
that all church
events listed are
subject to change or
cancellation.

Dear Church Family,

Many things are rapidly changing in our nation and state due to the spread of the Covid-19 virus. To assist with social distancing, the Heritage District pastors are being asked to suspend in person hospital visits which includes pre-surgery visits with the individual as well as visits with family members.

Rev. Lewis will be reaching out via phone to pray with the individuals prior to the surgery or treatments. He will also reach the family members for prayers in this same manner.

The conference continues to have announcements and updates as to policies we need to implement. These announcements are available at michiganumc.org.

Thank you for your understanding.

Blessings,

Sherry Baker
SPRC Chair
Howell FUMC

OUR CHURCH'S
FINANCIAL
HEALTH

60

Howell FUMC Financial Summary

01-01-2020 thru 02-29-2020

Income

	2020 Actual	2020 Target	Amt Over/ (Under)	Actual / Target	Y-T-D expected	Actual to Expected Percentage Over/(Under)
General - pledged	84,891.48	350,616.00	(265,724.52)	24.21	16.44	7.77
General - non-pledged	20,904.04	199,835.18	(178,931.14)	10.46	16.44	(5.98)
Loose Plate	951.66	8,000.00	(7,048.34)	11.90	16.44	(4.54)
Other	2,593.34	9,327.00	(6,733.66)	27.80	16.44	11.37
Total	109,340.52	567,778.18	(458,437.66)	19.26	16.44	2.82

Expenses

Budget split	Actual	Budget	Amt Over/ (Under)	Actual / Budget	Y-T-D expected	Actual to Expected Percentage Over/(Under)
18.26 1.0 Operating expenses	17,823.51	103,700.00	-85,876.49	17.19	16.44	0.75
9.22 2.0 Program expenses	7,625.46	52,325.00	-44,699.54	14.57	16.44	(1.87)
12.34 3.0 Ministry Shares	13,291.58	70,050.94	-56,759.36	18.97	16.44	2.54
60.09 4.0 Staff Salaries	62,528.22	341,202.24	-278,674.02	18.33	16.44	1.89
0.09 Payroll expenses	264.03	500.00	-235.97	52.81	16.44	36.37
100.00 Total	101,532.80	567,778.18	-466,245.38	17.88	16.44	1.44

Income Overage/(Shortfall) \$ 7,807.72

The overage so far this year is due to a number of pledges for 2020 that were paid in 2019 and also a number of people paying their entire pledge for the year already.

The Finance Committee is going to run a special giving event from June 1, 2020 thru the end of 2020. Any monies given to the Building Fund during that time will go directly to paying down the Mortgage principle. As part of the Stewardship Campaign in the Fall of 2020, we will request that you make a pledge to the Building Fund for 2021.

Changes to the Bell Ringer!



To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often. Winston Churchill.

There are changes coming to the Bell Ringer after this summer. After nearly two years of trying to keep the numbers high enough to mail a monthly newsletter under Bulk Mail rates, it has become too costly to continue. After a discussion during the March staff meeting, the following was decided as a reasonable compromise.

The Bell Ringer will continue to be produced monthly, the exception being that the summer months (June, July, and August) will only have one edition. The Bell Ringer will no longer be sent via postal mail after the summer edition.

Beginning in September, the newsletter will be available on our website, sent directly via email or a printed copy may be picked up in the Church in Action area.

The deadline for submission to the newsletter will remain as the 15th of every month. The summer edition deadline is May 15th.

LADIES DINNER

APRIL 28
6:00 PM

RSVP
at Welcome Desk
or
Church in Action



FIREWOOD
G R I L L

1202 EAST GRAND RIVER, HOWELL, MI 48843

Membership Update

Membership letters will be mailed to those who have not been in regular attendance over the last two years or more. Letters are scheduled to be mailed mid to late April. Current members may have family members who do not live in the area. They may be contacted to see if they wish to transfer to a church closer to their home or remain members at FUMC. This will allow us to have a good standing membership and constituent list prior to the new pastor's arrival. This will make it easier for him to get to know us.

Discipleship Ministries

April, 2020



Children sing praises during Children's Worship on Sunday mornings.

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BLASTers take to heart that Jesus delights in them.

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Faith Factory kids try their hand at building a prayer labyrinth.

Spring Break Family Movie Night Wednesday, April 1, 5-7 PM

Free Pizza, Popcorn &
Lemonade
Everyone Welcome

Wed. Weekly Menu

<u>Date</u>	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Cooks</u>
4/8	Mostoccioli, Gus' Breadsticks, Salads, Desserts	Trustees
4/15	Taco Bar, Salad Bar, Homemade Desserts	Spark Middle School Youth
4/22	Fish and Chips, Mac & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Desserts	United Methodist Men
4/29	Assorted Soups, Breads, Desserts	Sisters Bible Study



2020 Vacation
Bible School
Knights of North
Castle
July 27-31

Kids and Helpers
needed! Online
Registration begins
May 1.



New Study led by Jim Rutherford
Wednesdays, 6-7:30, begins 4/29

Come and join this new 11-week study on the Gospel of John. This study will use the book **The Gospel of John: Believe and Live** by Elmer Towns. This book will be available in the Church office prior to the start of the class. The Gospel of John presents Jesus as the Son of God who is worthy of our greatest faith and deepest devotion. Come and be part of this study and allow your heart to be captivated by the wonder and majesty of Jesus Christ.

Adult Mission Trip

No special skills required to serve the Lord in Southeast Kentucky.

Have you ever thought about doing mission work? Maybe you don't like the thought of going outside the country or feel like you don't have the necessary skills to make a contribution.

This year's adult mission trip is scheduled for the week of October 4, 2020. A number of your fellow Christians have taken this trip in the past. This will be the ninth year that our church is sending a contingent to serve the people of Appalachia.

We will again be heading to Henderson Settlement and we are looking for other Christians who want to serve the Lord by helping those in the depressed area of Southeast Kentucky. **AND GET THIS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE ANY SPECIAL SKILLS AND WILL NOT BE LEAVING THE COUNTRY.**

In February 1925, Reverend Hiram Frakes observed a murder hearing in the county courthouse presided over by one of the members of his church. The judge hearing the matter was faced with yet another case from a notorious section of the county aided by its own kind of law of fear and violence. Witnesses refused to place the blame for certain killings.

Moved by this incident, Rev. Frakes decided to shift his ministry toward this section of the county. He began with a school built in 1927. Shortly after that dormitories were added for orphans and students who lived too far away to walk. The students would do laundry, milk cows and tend gardens to help keep the school going. Soon after, the community bonded together to build up Henderson Settlement, counteracting the area's reputation for moonshining and feuding.

A church, farm, gristmill and sawmill were all built. A nurse and doctor came to the settlement in the 1940s. Following World War II, enrollment at Henderson Settlement mushroomed. The state licensed the facility as a child care center. A craft store and thrift shop were added and then a work camp program for youth and adults.

In the late 60s and 70s the federal government became a partner and a social worker was added to the staff. A Health Clinic and volunteer Fire Department were established. Since the 80s a library has been added, staff began raising feeder pigs and put an early childhood development program in place. Outreach services, tutoring, adult education and a senior citizen center were all added.

Our mission team will spend about six or seven days working on various projects. The projects will either be in the community or on campus at Henderson Settlement. If you are interested in attending or need further information please contact Lance Schuhmacher, Nancy Milner or Jeff Carl.

Reconnection

Stephen Ministry

I am enjoying the sun filled state of Florida. During our travels south, we took the time to stop in South Carolina to reconnect with one of my classmates. I was also able to reconnect with another classmate who happens to be spending time in Florida near us. While with her, we called yet another classmate to arrange for a get together later this month. It is a blessing to reconnect and remember days of the past; to reminisce about the wonderful times together. Although so much time had passed, we picked up right where we left off; like time had not changed our friendship at all. Despite knowing our past fears, failures, and mistakes, we still care for each other. We all went to church together, attended Sunday School and youth groups. We sang together in the church choirs and went on mission trips together. In our reconnection over 50 years later, we still all have our deep belief in God.

Have you found times in your life when your friend, Jesus, seemed to be a long way away? Have you lost your connection with God? Have there been events in your life that have caused you to feel God doesn't care? No one is exempt in having trials and tribulations in our Christian walk. However, just like my reconnection with long ago friends, you too can reconnect with your Heavenly Father. And when you do, it will mean so much more to you. A time to reflect that God wasn't the one who left you, but you who left Him.

If you need help to reconnect or renew your friendship with God and enjoy His promises of forgiveness, love, mercy, grace, and blessings, consider asking for a Stephen Minister. A Christian friend in whom you can confide your fears. A friend who can help with providing scripture and prayers to reconnect to God. He wants to hear from you again despite the time you've been away.

Blessings to all,
Patti Van Loo for the Stephen Ministry Team

APRIL 18TH
SIGN UP APR 5TH
5:30-7:30PM



An event for our teen girls and their momma's

Spring
BREAK

NO YOUTH EVENTS
MARCH 28 - APRIL 5*

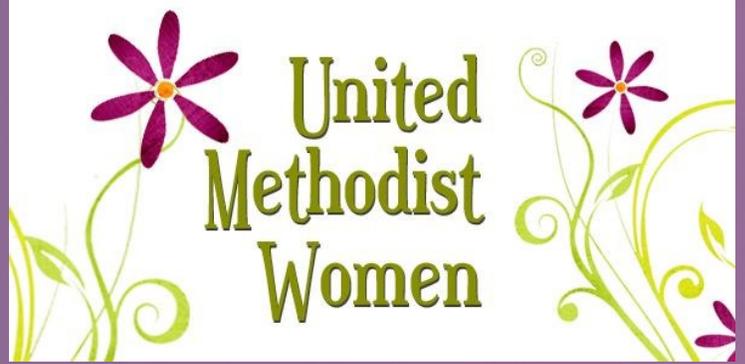
*Ignite will still meet on the evening of April 5th

A Special Thank you...

The teens of Howell FUMC would like to thank everyone who came out and showed their support at our 10th annual Euchre Tournament.

Your continued love and support of us and our efforts to serve God and those in need is seen, loved, and appreciated.

Thank you!



UMW April 2020 Newsletter

CIRCLES:

Dorcas/Mary-Martha Circle:

Wednesday, April 15th @ 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

Chairperson: Georgia Beckwith

Faith Circle:

Monday, April 2th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

Chairperson: Patty Van Loo

Grace Circle:

Thursday, April 9th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Café

Program: Going to Maundy Church service

Chairpersons: Jan Clay and Diane Griffin

Mary-Elizabeth Circle:

Thursday, April 23rd @ 7:00 pm

Program: Jennifer Beal's for Bible Study

Chairperson: Laura Rockwell

Ruth Circle:

Wednesday, April 25th @ 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Program: Prayer and Self Denial

Chairperson: Joyce Fyke

All women of the church are invited to
attend any of the circle meetings.



MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Winter Retreat NO IGNITE or YBS	2	3	4 Spark 6-7:30pm	5	6	7 Euchre Tournament Fundraiser 2-5pm
8 YBS 1030am Confirmation Wk14 11:30am Ignite 6-8pm	9	10	11 Spark 6-7:30pm	12	13	14
15 YBS 1030am Confirmation Wk15 11:30am \$250 Mission Trip Payment & Forms Due	16	17	18 Spark 6-7:30pm	19	20 Church Rummage Sale -> 21st	21
22 Confirmation Wk16 11:30am YBS 1030am Ignite 6-8pm	23	24	25 Spark 6-7:30pm	26	27	28
29 Howell School Spring Break No Youth Events	30 Spring Break	31 Spring Break				

APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Spring Break No Youth Events	2 Spring Break	3 Spring Break	4 Spring Break
5 YBS 1030am Ignite 6-8pm	6	7	8 Spark 6-7:30pm	9	10 Good Friday No school	11
12 Easter Sunday No Events	13	14	15 Spark Wed. Weekly 6pm Tacos – Youth meet at 3:45	16	17	18 Girls Night Mother-daughter Event 5-7:30pm
19 YBS 10:30am Ignite 6-8pm	20	21	22 Spark 6-7:30pm	23 Emmaus Walk -> 26th	24	25
26 Last YBS before summer YBS Breakfast!! 10:30am Ignite 6-8pm	27	28	29 Spark 6-7:30pm	30		

MAY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 8am Confirmation Breakfast Confirmation Sunday 9 & 10:30am Services Ignite 6-8pm	4	5	6 Spark 6-7:30pm	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day No events	11	12	13 Spark 6-7:30pm	14	15	16
17 GRADUATION SUNDAY 9 & 10:30 services Senior Send-off 6-8pm	18	19	20 Spark 6-7:30pm Summer Kick-off	21	22	23
24	31	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29
						30 Howell Graduation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Heath Ministry Team has provided hand sanitizers in every pew in both the sanctuary and chapel. This is provided through a gift donation.



- The Staff Parish Relations committee is asking for volunteers to help plan the retirement celebration for Rev. Lewis. This celebration will be held on June 7, 2020 (time TBD) at Howell FUMC. We will be working and sharing expenses with Brighton FUMC to plan an event to celebrate Rev. Lewis and Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker-Lewis. As they begin this new chapter of their life together. If you like planning events and are interested in helping, please contact Sherry Baker at sherrybaker@outlook.com or 820-620-2205 or Jeannine Pratt at jmpratt@sbcglobal.net. Thank You.
- Staff Parish Relations Committee

SAVE THE DATE!

On Sunday, June 7th, we will join together as a church family to honor and celebrate the retirement of our pastor, Reverend George Lewis. We are currently working on making this a special day for him and his family. We need your help and support to make it happen!

Would you please consider contributing to help us defray the costs of celebration? We are also beginning to collect contributions towards a gift for Rev. Lewis.

If you are able to contribute towards the celebration and/or towards a gift, your donation(s) can be dropped off in the church office to either Jamie Rouser or Jennifer Rhodes. You may also include the donation in your offering on a Sunday. Please indicate how you would like the donation to be used (celebration and/or gift).

Thanks for your continued support!

- Staff Parish Relations Committee -

GIVING GARDEN

April 15, 2020
Garden Meeting
Room 6

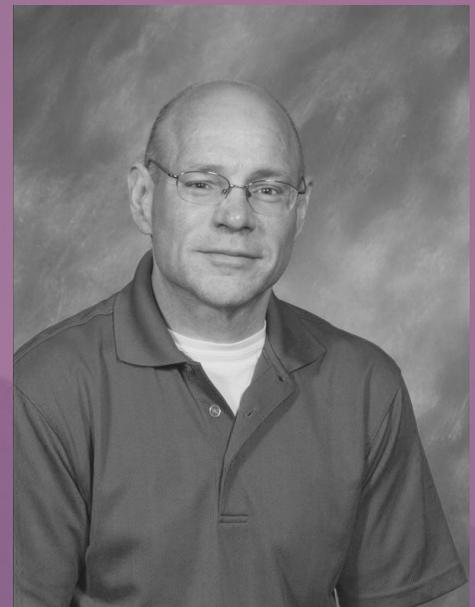
May 9, 2020
Garden Blessing
& Workday
9 AM – 12 PM

May 30, 2020
Garden Planting
9 AM – 12 PM

Pastor Scott Otis

July 5, 2020 we will be welcoming new pastor Reverend Scott Otis and his wife Carrie Otis for their first Sunday at Howell First United Methodist Church.

Pastor Scott Otis is coming to us from the Greater Southwest District - Edwardsburg: Hope UMC.



All events are subject to change



April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p> Palm Sunday 5 Carnata at 10:30am 6pm IGNITE (High school)</p>	<p>12pm Time with Pastor 6 12pm Cards Club 1pm-7pm Blood Drive 6pm Time with Pastor 7pm Missions</p>	<p>3pm Diabetes Prevention 7 6pm Evangelism 7pm BSA364 7pm Cub Leader Meeting</p>	<p>CHURCHBUILDING 1 CLOSED!</p>	<p>CHURCHBUILDING 2 CLOSED!</p>	<p>CHURCHBUILDING 3 CLOSED!</p>	<p>CHURCHBUILDING 4 CLOSED!</p>
<p> 12 He Is Risen! Carnata.com</p>	<p>13 1pm UMW Executive Meeting</p>	<p>9am Health Ministry Team 14 11am Special Staff Mtg. 12pm-4pm DAR 7pm BSA364 7pm SSITEP</p>	<p>10am Dorcas / Mary-Margra 15 1pm Ruth Circle 6pm Garden Meeting *Wed Weekly</p>	<p>10am Sisters 16 7pm Church Council 7pm VC 361</p>	<p>Good Friday 10 OFFICE CLOSED 7pm Community Service at 1st Presbyterian of Howell</p>	<p>5pm-7pm Girls Night 18 Bayshore Men's Retreat</p>
<p>19 1pm Private Event 6pm IGNITE (high school)</p>	<p>20 7pm Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>3pm Diabetes Prevention 21 7pm BSA364 7pm S/P/R/C</p>	<p>Preschool Bike Day 22 *Wed Weekly</p>	<p>10am Sisters 23 6:30pm Weekend Survival Kits 7pm Mary Elizabeth Circle (off site)</p>	<p>24 9am Trustees Outdoor Workday</p>	<p>25 9am Trustees Outdoor Workday</p>
<p>26 6pm IGNITE (high school)</p>	<p>27 7pm Faith Circle 7pm BSA364 Planning Mtg.</p>	<p>3pm Lay Leadership 28 6pm Ladies Dinner Out (off site) 7pm BSA364 7pm Technology</p>	<p>*Wed Weekly 29</p>	<p>10am Sisters 30</p>	<p></p>	

April Sunday Schedule

8am - Worship (Chapel)
9am - Worship (Fellowship Hall)
9am - Nursery; Faith Factory;
Children's Worship
10:05 am - Stephen Minister (Chapel)
11:35 am - Stephen Minister (Chapel)
Coffee & Fellowship after each worship

Wednesday Weekly Schedule

6⁰⁰ am - Men's Bible Study
4pm - WW Bible Study
5¹⁵ pm - WW Meal
6pm - Bells Rehearsal
6pm - Spark; Nursery
6¹⁵ pm - Blast Foundations;
Friendship Class, Help Me Remember
7pm - Praise Band Rehearsal
7pm - Choir Rehearsal

A.A. Groups

7 am Mon-Sun (6)
12pm Mon-Fri (6)
7⁰⁰ pm Mon Eve (6)
4pm Tue & Thur (6)
11am Sat (6)

Faithfully Fit

Mon: 8am, 10am, 4¹⁵pm,
Tue: 6¹⁵ am, 9⁴⁵ am, 4¹⁵ pm, 5¹⁵ pm
Wed: 8am, 9⁰⁰ am
Thur: 6¹⁵ am, 9⁰⁰ am, 4pm, 5¹⁵ pm
Fri: 8am, 10am
Sat: 9am

Church Office

Hours

Mon - Fri

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Instagram

#howellfumc

#fumchowell

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

- 8:00 AM Piano-led worship in the Chapel
- 9:00 AM Band-led worship in Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 AM Choir-led worship in the Sanctuary

WEBSITE

www.howellfumc.com

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Morning Coffee & Fellowship Times

- Coffee Time: 8:45 AM in the Parlor
- Common Grounds: 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM & 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM in the Café
- Coffee Time: 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

Faith Factory / Children's Worship

- 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM ages 3-11 Room 11

Nursery

- 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM ages 3-11 Room 11

Youth Bible Study

- 10:30 AM Middle & High School Room 13-15

First United Methodist Church
1230 Bower Street
Howell, MI 48843

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www.howellfumc.com

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



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