

## Farewell Dear Friends, Farewell

"Finally, brothers and sisters, goodbye. Put things in order, respond to my encouragements, be in harmony with each other, and live in peace—and the God of love and peace will be with you." 2 Cor. 13:11

I will say once again, for one last time, that of which I have said since I arrived at this appointment 10 years ago. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your pastor. As I write my very last newsletter article to you, I have conflicting emotions. On one side, I am so excited and overjoyed to be retiring. It is really good for my soul to count down the days. On the other hand, there is great sorrow. I have come to know and love all of you as pastor and friend. You have invited me into the deepest parts of your lives and the lives of your families. I trust that my presence has helped you to become more faithful to God



I had hoped to walk through all the good times we have had over the past decade during some fellowship time, but that is not looking promising right now. May it suffice to say that God has done great things here in our midst. Let me also say that God is not finished with us yet. The future is in God's hands and we will all continue to trust the Lord God Almighty.

There are a few things I must mention that I will miss. Of course, this list is not complete and is in no special order, but it does reflect a portion of my heart:

- Wednesday morning 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study.
- Staff meetings and birthday lunches.
- Chapel worship singing.
- Sitting up front in Lawson Hall for 9:00 AM worship. (Thanks to those who joined me at the table.)
- Walking out of the sanctuary after worship and seeing the Great Shepherd watching over me.
- Wednesday night schmoozing and teaching.
- Hitting a golf ball into another fairway and hearing the jabs from the others in our league.
- Playing euchre. Anytime, anywhere. (Some still wear their buttons proudly)
- Advent sermon series.
- The children and the youth. I will miss the young disciples and their joy.
- Funeral visits, services and meals. I truly felt God during these times.
- Outdoor tent service and picnic. (Lots of work and lots of love).
- Yearly men's retreat. It was good for this old pastor's soul.
- Napping on my office sofa.
- Welcoming new guests. Lunch and dinner with the pastor on the first Monday of the month.
- Last, but not least, early morning personal devotion and singing in the chapel.

Many more things will be missed. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. If I have wounded or injured any of you through word or deed, I apologize and ask for your forgiveness. If I have helped any of you, give God the glory. Amen and farewell, it has been an honor.

## **Transition News**

It is with confidence that I turn the leadership role of First United Methodist Church of Howell over to Scott Otis. Although this transition has been unlike any in the history of Methodism, it has gone well. Pastor Scott and I have been working together with the staff each week in preparation for the future. I ask that everyone be extra patient. I haven't ever turned a church over to anyone in which no one has been in the building for an extended period of time. It seems very strange.

Pastor Scott will need your help during this summer and fall. Our usual events and fellowship times are on hold, so we cannot expect the usual comradery. I thank everyone who has helped me to navigate in a digital church and I hope that continues with Scott.

Please be prepared to assist the Staff Parish Relations Committee in their hard work of transitioning between leaders. There will be opportunity soon for you to welcome and greet Scott and Carrie. Please avail yourself and volunteer to help. I would also place upon each of you the personal responsibility to care for each other when the building reopens. Scott will not know who is missing and needs a call. Keep close track of one another and do not let anyone slip away from the flock. The staff will do their part, but it will take everyone to accomplish a successful reopening of the building.

1 Corinthians 3:10

"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it."

## Dear Howell First UMC,

In Isaiah 6:8 God spoke to the prophet Isaiah asking, "Who will go for me?" Isaiah said, "Here I am, send me."

I am taking a break from house repair and cleaning to write to you and my new church family in Howell. I have just three days before my house will be photographed and put on the market, that will all be over by the time you read this and it might even be sold. We are excited to meet each of you. With that in mind, let me introduce you to the Otis family.

I was raised in West Michigan, first in Kalamazoo and then on a small island on Gun Lake. I graduated from Delton Kellogg High School. During my senior year of high school, I attended the Shelbyville UMC where people began to ask me if I had thought about being a pastor. It seemed like an odd question, but it was also the start of a powerful call to ordained ministry. In Isaiah 6:8 God spoke to the prophet Isaiah asking, "Who will go for me?" Isaiah said, "Here I am, send me." In the middle of looking at that calling, I realized God was asking me the same question. In college, at Western Michigan University, I began working with youth at my local church and found energy and passion in that. I could not get God's calling off my mind.

I left youth ministry and went on to Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky where I earned a degree in Bible. I then attended seminary at Asbury Theological Seminary and later at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. I simultaneously began pastoral ministry at the St. Paul UMC in Oak Hill, Ohio. I was so green to ministry! The good people of St. Paul loved us and were patient as we learned the many lessons of leadership in ministry. That began a journey of 34 years of practicing ministry. I use the word "practicing" because there is always so much more to learn.

In 1983, I married my college girlfriend, Carrie (Yount). I still can't believe she said "yes." Out of our love we had three now adult children. Corey/Erin (Holdren) of Fenton, Kyle/Lindsey (Frohriep) of Kalamazoo and Emily/ Morgan Hennessey of Memphis, Tennessee. By the time you read this we will be welcoming our sixth granddaughter into this world. They are a huge blessing but we are wondering if there are any grandsons in our future!

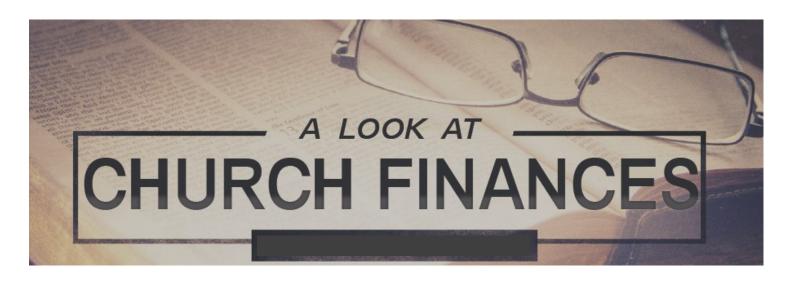
For hobbies I like to play with my dogs, run when my knees will allow it, follow the Detroit Tiger baseball team and check up on the local college football teams. (Go Blue). Carrie loves to be creative in making quilts, pillows and art of many kinds. She has amazing gifts for decorating of all varieties. She is great with little kids, too. Carrie was once named the Martha Stewart-Mary Poppins of the community.

It is my privilege to be able to serve as pastor of Howell First UMC. I have a longing to see church members become disciples. I would do almost anything to reach the pre-churched for Christ.

I know that God has great things ahead for all of us.

Your fellow servant.

Rev. Scott K. Otis



Howell FUMC Financial Summary

01-01-2020 thru 04-30-2020

## Income

121

	2020 Actual	2020 Target	Amt Over/ (Under)	Actual / Target	Y-T-D expected	Actual to Expected Percentage Over/(Under)
General - pledged	140,939.48	350,616.00	(209,676.52)	40.20	33.15	7.05
General - non-pledged	39,668.82	199,835.18	(160,166.36)	19.85	33.15	(13.30)
Loose Plate	1,205.91	8,000.00	(6,794.09)	15.07	33.15	(18.08)
Other	4,199.47	9,327.00	(5,127.53)	45.02	33.15	11.87
Total	186,013.68	567,778.18	(381,764.50)	32.76	33.15	(0.39)

## Expenses

							Actual to Expected
Budget				Amt Over/	Actual /	Y-T-D	Percentage
split		Actual	Budget	(Under)	Budget	expected	Over/(Under)
18.26	1.0 Operating expenses	36,074.26	103,700.00	-67,625.74	34.79	33.15	1.64
9.22	2.0 Program expenses	13,008.12	52,325.00	-39,316.88	24.86	33.15	(8.29)
12.34	3.0 Ministry Shares	14,240.57	70,050.94	-55,810.37	20.33	33.15	(12.82)
60.09	4.0 Staff Salaries	111,595.75	341,202.24	-229,606.49	32.71	33.15	(0.44)
0.09	Payroll expenses	365.53	500.00	-134.47	73.11	33.15	39.96
100.00	Total	175,284.23	567,778.18	-392,493.95	30.87	33.15	(2.28)

Income Overage/(Shortfall \$ 10,729.45

The church is still in decent financial shape due in large part to your continued support. Please keep up the faithful giving. We applied for and received a Payroll Protection loan in the amount of \$79,100. This will help to cover the payroll for next couple of months. As long as the funds are used for payroll, the loan will not need to be repaid.

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. \*\*watch website for any updates\*\*

# TAILGATE graduate CELEBRATION

Our high school seniors have missed out on so much this year, and we would love to honor their accomplishments and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Please join us on Saturday, June 13th, at the church parking lot for a social-distancing celebration. Our graduates will have displays in the trunks of their cars set up. You will be able to drive by, say hi, and drop off a card or word of encouragement (all without leaving your car).

If you cannot make it on the 13th but still want to honor our grads with a card or letter, then you can send your letter to the church and we will make sure our grads receive them.

We look forward to celebrating our grads with you!

>>> Saturday, June 13th <<<

1-3 pm

1230 Bower St, Howell, MI, 48843

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & THANKS**



As I pen this note, it is a beautiful, sunny, spring day. As we are unable to gather together in our beloved church building and thank you individually, we thought it best to tell you here in the Bell Ringer.

As some folks know and others may not know, Bill and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on April 25th. That's a biggie and we're shocked how fast fifty years went! Time flies when you're having fun! We have truly been blessed by God, to have shared fifty years together

Our children and grandchildren had something special planned and that was just not to be. We have no clue as to what the plans were. They didn't want is to feel worse that we already did, so they didn't tell us. Hopefully sometime down the road they'll try again.

For all the lovely cards and the beautiful well wishes we received, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It is truly a blessing to belong to such an amazing and loving church family. We miss everyone terribly and pray for your safety and good health and for the day we all gather together again.

Love and Blessings, Bill and Diana Field



### LAUNDRY MINISTRY

Thank you to the entire congregation for your support of the Laundry Ministry and filling the gap for many in need during these difficult times. We have served nearly as many families and almost as many individuals in April as we had previously this year. Our totals through April are 20 families and 29 individuals. They have been given vouchers totaling \$640. We have been able to serve clients either at their homeless shelter when they lack transportation or in the parking lot at the church, with proper social distancing.

~Coralene

### GLEANERS FOOD BANK

Prior to the "Stay at Home" directive, 702 pounds of food had been delivered to Gleaners. At the present, items cannot come from our home pantries, so watch for how this ministry will continue once we can meet at church again. We do know that the need is very

great. If you are able to make a financial contribution to Gleaners, we know that the money will help them purchase necessary supplies.



~ Basil



Attention Church Leaders, Study Groups, Circles and more.

Howell FUMC now has a Zoom account making it easier to meet with others virtually.

Schedule meetings with Jenn.

Please provide one contact person, the date, time and duration you desire.

A confirmation and meeting information will be emailed to the contact person.

The contact person will then send out invites to all that will be a part of the meeting.

Please contact Jenn with any questions. (517)546-2730 or jrhodes@howellfumc.com

## Remote Worship Online Services and Phone Services

Please be assured that our online presence will continue into the future, even after we reopen our doors. Prior to the closing of our building, we were making services available online for those who missed, new guests checking us out, or re-visiting that fantastic service you heard on Sunday.

This ministry will continue. Please don't think that once we reopen, all this will disappear. The online presence and the new phone call-in presence will continue. You are welcome to share with others as well.

You may watch or listen online via our website www.howellfumc.com

Approximately halfway down on the home page you will find a group of the most recent sermons and videos. If you would like to re-watch or catch up, you may go to the Sermons page via the menu drop down in the left hand top corner or go directly to www.howellfumc.com/sermons

The newest addition to remote worship is as simple as dialing a phone number from either your land-line phone or your cell phone. The phone number is (517) 300-0800. Dial, get comfortable, and listen to the worship service in it's entirety, including the music and prayer. This platform will hold only one service for one week. This will be changed every Sunday for the current worship service. You may call and listen as often as you like. You may share this phone number with anyone you may feel would benefit from listening to the worship services.

We also keep up to date with social media platforms of Facebook and Instagram.

If you would like more information, or have questions, please feel free to call the church phone number (517) 546-2730 to reach Jenn. The Church phone is currently forwarded to my cell phone at home. However, this will only work during normal church office hours Monday-Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm. If you leave a message, I will return your call. You may also reach me via email jrhodes@howellfumc.com

-Jenn





## **TRANSITIONS**

With Social Media

Effective June 30, 2020, I will no longer be pastor at Howell FUMC. My church email address will be discontinued at that time. I will still have a personal email account, but I will not be addressing church or pastoral issues. I will also not be available to administrate on the church's Facebook page. Sherry and I will keep our personal Facebook pages, but again I remind you that is for our personal lives and not our previous church lives.

Effective July 1, 2020, the pastor of Howell FUMC will be Rev. Scott Otis. His church email address will be pastorscott@howellfumc.com.

All pastoral and church communications will be made to Pastor Scott. This includes but not limited to: weddings, funerals, baptisms, confirmations, counseling, and leadership. Pastor Scott will need your full support during the days of transition. I will need your full support in letting go and retiring. Any future contact with the official church body by me will be directed by the new pastor. This is how UM pastors transition and it works well.

> Thank you, **Rev. Lewis**

Summer greetings and blessings to all our church family. I have to say, I have grieved not being able to walk the church halls and see my church family over the past several months. I think that is something I took for granted and I vow I will try to never do that again. I will admit, during this time away, I have had to seek out more ways to feed my spiritual life (on-line worship services, devotions, music and walks with God and prayer). Recently, a devotion I read was based on scripture from 1 Peter and it brought to my mind the value of being a Stephen Minister. There's a mystery and beauty in living a life in and for Jesus.

The author, Joni Eareckson Tada, wrote "When you give something of value in His (Jesus') name - a gift, an insight, a kind word, your time and help, a prayer, a listening ear - it works it's way back to your benefit". In God's timing and when we least expect it, and maybe not in our lifetime, our acts will be returned to us as blessings from Him; maybe, even accrued for our delight in Heaven. To think that our gifts, as noted earlier, given to others in times of their need, have triple impact. First on the care receiver, then on the care giver, and then to Jesus. Having served as a Stephen Minister, I can honestly say I have been blessed by seeing God's blessings return to those hurting in grief, illness and the stresses of life. I've grown closer to God and my hope is that the care receivers did as well.

I feel that there are many in our church and community that have experienced much stress during this difficult time of history. It has even affected our Stephen Ministry program as we haven't been able to meet face to face in close proximity to our care receivers. However, we are doing our best to stay connected and keeping our care receivers in prayer. I ask that you add this program to your prayer list. Pray that God will continue to provide a way through our ministry to help those missioned in our team as they conclude their training to also be Stephen Ministers.

We remain here for anyone in need. Please be in touch with our pastor or anyone on our team should you have a spiritual need. May God continue to bless those who have received help, those who have provided help and may God receive the Glory. Amen.

From your sisters and brothers in Christ,

Patti Van Loo for the Stephen Ministry Team

The Adult Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement, scheduled for this fall is cancelled. However there is still a great need for financial support. If you would still like to support Henderson Settlement you can send your financial support to the church. On the memo line please indicate "Henderson Settlement". Donations for the mission will be accepted until July 15, 2020.



## **VBS** Update

Because of continuing Covid-19 concerns, 2020 in-person Vacation Bible School (July 27-31) is postponed until Summer, 2021. A virtual VBS is being prepared and will be available on Facebook Live and the church website later this summer. Stay tuned for details and information, which will be available at howellfumc.com.



## Discipleship Ministries Summer, 2020



Mitch Albrant

Mitch will attend Siena Heights University to study Business Finance and play NGIA Lacrosse.



Amber Byington

Amber will be taking a year off to work and save for college.

## Honoring our 2020 High School Graduates



Tamar Cawthra

Tamar plans to attend Columbia College in Chicago to study Illustration and Game Hrt.



Histon Cove

Histon will be attending Grand Valley State University.



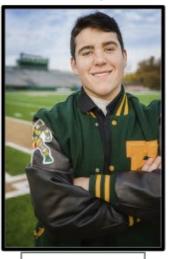
Emily Endebrock

Emily plans to study Pre-Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University.



Abigail Gulick

Abigail will attend Central Michigan University to study Early Childhood Development

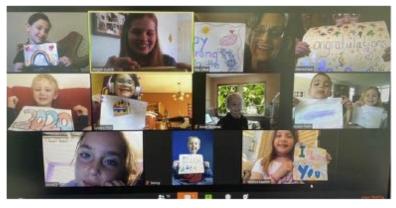


Preston Tippie

Presson will be attending Michigan State
University to study Business.

## Children's Ministry

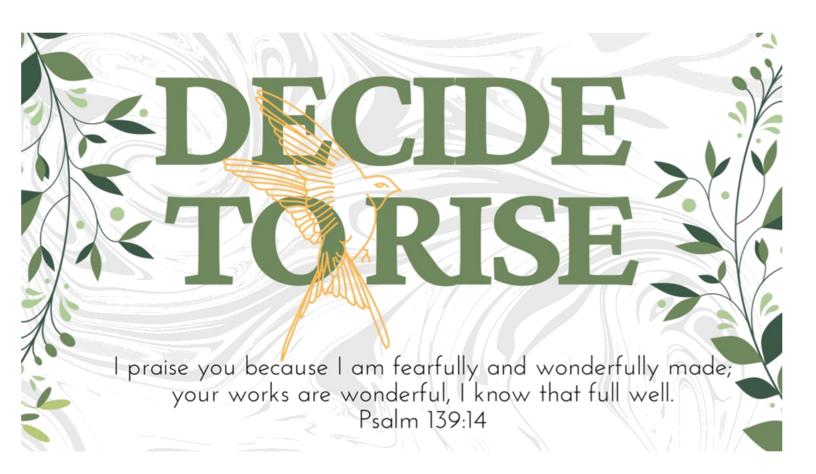




BLAST kids offer encouragement to

our home-bound members.

BLAST kids use technology to encourage and celebrate others.



Thank you for all of the support for our 2019/20 To the Full MOPS year. We truly appreciate the love and dedication from the church and all of the volunteers who make this ministry happen.

We are looking forward to the 2020/21 Decide to Rise MOPS year, in which we will be adding the MOMSnext program. MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers, which encompasses birth - kindergarten. And because we don't stop being Moms when they go to school, MOMSnext includes moms with children up to 18. Be Strong. Chase Joy. Do Your Work.

More details will be shared, as we figure out what our fall kickoff event and year will look like.

MOPS Leadership, Jamie and Jennifer



Further details will be mailed and posted on our website and social media.



## Dearest Friend,

These are unusual times that we're living in, and the children from BLAST at Howell FUMC wanted you to know they are thinking about you and praying for you. The children wanted to send you encouraging words, and through the magic of technology we were able to do just that! We are also sending the good news that Jesus is always with you. The children and I carry you in our hearts.

BLAST (Believers Learning and Serving Together)
Olive Hayden-Moore, Children's Ministry Director

# Subject to Change All Events are



28	Father's	Rev. Lewis Celebration 4 Parade 6-8pm Ignite	Peace with Justice 7 Sunday	6-8pm Ignite	*Due to CO\	Sunday
29	22	1.5 7pm Stephen Ministry	80	Ě	/ID-19 – all ev	Monday
30	23 3pm Lay Leadership 7pm Technology	16	9 9am Health Team 7pm SSTEP	2 6pm Evangelism	ents are subje	Tuesday
	24	IJ	10	ш	ct to change o	Wednesday
	10am Sisters	10am Sisters 7pm Church Council	10am Sisters 1.1 7pm Finance	10am Sisters 4 7pm Trustees	*Due to COVID-19 – all events are subject to change or cancellation	Thursday
	26 Office Closed	19 Office Closed	Office Closed	5 Office Closed		Friday
	27	20	Tailgate 1.3 Graduation Celebration 1-3 PM	6		Saturday

## <u>June Sunday Schedule</u>

8am - Worship (Chapel) 9am - Worship (Fellowship Hall 9am - Nursery; Faith Factory;

Children's Worship

10:05 am - Stephen Minister (Chapel)

10:30 am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 am - Nursery; Faith Factory;

Children's Worship

11:35 am – Stephen Minister (Chapel Youth Bible Study

# Wednesday Weekly Schedule

\* Activities will resume in the fall.

## A.A. Groups

12pm Mon-Fri (6) 736pm Mon Eve (6) 7am Mon-Sun (6)

4pm Tue & Thur (6) 11am Sat (6)

## Faithfully Fit

Mon: 8am, 10am, 415pm; Thur: 615 am; 930 am; 4pm; 515 pm Wed: 8am; 930am Tue: 615 am; 945 am; 415 pm; 515 pm Sat: 9am Fri: Sam; 10am

# All Events are

# Subject to Change



rcancellation	t to change o	nts are subjec	*Due to COVID-19 – all events are subject to change or cancellation	*Due to COV		
	OFFICE CLOSED			7pm Technology		
	31	Virtual VBS 30	Virtual VBS 29	Virtual VBS 28 3pm Lay Leadership	27	26
	OFFICE CLOSED			7pm S/PRC	7pm Stephen Ministry	
25	24	Virtual VBS	Virtual VBS	Virtual VBS	20	19
	OFFICE CLOSED	7pm Council		7pm SSTEP		
18	17	Virtual VBS 16	Virtual VBS 15	Virtual VBS	13	12
Gleaners	OFFICE CLOSED	7pm Finance		6pm Evangelism	7pm Missions	
UMM ®	10	9	8	7	6	5
4TH OF JULY	OFFICE CLOSED	7pm Trustees				
hasses 4	ω	2				
Saturday	HØ4	Thur Say	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Sunday

## <u>July Sunday Schedule</u>

Sam - Worship (Chapel)
9am - Worship (Fellowship Hall)
9am - Nursery; Faith Factory;

10:05 am – Stephen Minister (Chapel) Children's Worship

> 10:30 am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 am - Nursery; Faith Factory; Children's Worship

11:35 am – Stephen Minister (Chapel

Youth Bible Study

\* Activities will resume in the fall.

Wednesday Weekly Schedule

## A.A. Groups

7am Mon-Sun (6) 12pm Mon-Fri (6)

4pm Tue & Thur (6) 730 pm Mon Eve (6) 11am Sat (6)

Sat: 9am

## Faithfully Fit

Fri: Sam; 10am Thur: 615 am; 930 am; 4pm; 515 pm Wed: 8am; 930am Mon: 8am, 10am, 4<sup>15</sup>pm; Tue: 6<sup>15</sup>am; 9<sup>45</sup>am; 4<sup>16</sup>pm; 5<sup>15</sup>pm

# Subject to Change All Events are





cancellati	t to change or	nts are subjec	*Due to COVID-19 – all events are subject to change or cancellation	*Due to COV	31	30
	28 OFFICE CLOSED	27	26	25 3pm Lay Leadership 7pm Technology	24	23
12 <sup>30</sup> pm – 5pm DKG	OFFICE CLOSED	7pm Council		7pm S/PRC	7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm S/PRC	
	21	20	19	18	17	16
12³ºpm – 5pm Private Event	OFFICE CLOSED	7pm Finance		9am Health Team 7pm SSTEP		
	14	13	12	11	10	9
	OFFICE CLOSED	7pm Trustees		6pm Evangelism	1-7pm Blood Drive 7pm Missions	
	7	6	5	4	3	2
Saturday	Friday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Sunday

# August Sunday Schedule

Sam – 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

10:30 am - Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 am - Nursery; Faith Factory; Children's Worship

Youth Bible Study

## A.A. Groups

Wednesday Weekly Schedule \* Activities will resume in the fall.

12pm Mon-Fri (6) 730pm Mon Eve (6) 7am Mon-Sun (6)

4pm Tue & Thur (6) 11am Sat (6)

## Faithfully Fit

Tue: 6<sup>15</sup>am; 9<sup>45</sup>am; 4<sup>15</sup>pm; 5<sup>15</sup>pm Wed: 8am; 9<sup>30</sup>am Sat: 9am Fri: Sam; 10am Thur: 615 am; 930 am; 4 pm; 515 pm Mon: Sam, 10am, 415pm;

## **Church Office**

## **Hours**

Mon - Fri

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



## 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

(517) 546-2730 Fax (517) 546-5076 www.howellfumc.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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