

The Chimes

News from the Dixboro United Methodist Church

February 2018



A Note from Pastor Tonya

Wilderness Times

“And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan” Mark 1:12-13a

Have you ever found yourself in the wilderness? Your prayer life hits a dry spell. Your worship seems arid and lifeless. Troubles assail you. Temptations call your name. You feel alone and forsaken. God seems so very far away. Dr. D.W. Ekstrand writes, “In a spiritual wilderness God feels far away, distant, absent, and unresponsive ... faith feels doubtful or uncertain ... we feel alone, vulnerable, lost, and unprotected ... there is the fear of hopelessness and the unknown ... and it’s the place where Satan resides.” Have you ever found yourself in the wilderness?

Jesus did. He had just been baptized by his cousin, John – and heard his Heavenly Father say, “You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.” And wham! The Spirit drove him from that place of divine favor to a place of desolation. But because Jesus was open to the Spirit, God was able to use Jesus’ wilderness time to prepare him for his ministry.

Likewise, if we are open to the Spirit, God can use our wilderness times to bring us into a deeper relationship with God. It is in the wilderness that God introduces Godself to us in a deeper and more profound way ... and where God shows us that we are thirsty and dry in our spiritual life. What better place to show us that but in a desert? As our thirst increases, we cry out to God and start searching desperately to find God ... and that’s exactly what God wants us to do! The Lord says, “You will find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13).

I look forward to discovering how God will use OUR wilderness times to deepen our relationship with God and prepare us for whatever ministry God has in mind for us.

– Rev. Tonya Arnesen

Lent/Easter Worship Schedule Sermon Series: Wilderness Times

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2/14 | Ash Wednesday - <u>6:00 pm</u>
<i>A Time of Learning</i> |
| 2/18 | Lent #1
<i>A Time of Challenge</i> |
| 2/25 | Lent #2; VCI Consultation Event
Naomi Garcia preaching |
| 3/4 | Lent #3 - Holy Communion
<i>A Time of Dependence</i>
Rev. Mary preaching |
| 3/11 | Lent #4
Begin Daylight Savings Time
<i>A Time of Doubt</i>
UMCOR Offering |
| 3/18 | Lent #5 – Easter Cantata
<i>A Time of Comfort</i> |
| 3/25 | Lent #6 - Palm Sunday –
<i>A Time of New Beginnings</i> |
| 3/30 | Good Friday
Potluck dinner at 5:45
Worship at <u>6:30 pm</u> |
| 4/1 | Easter Sunday
<i>From Wilderness to WONDER!</i>

7:00 am Youth Sunrise Service
9 & 11 am Worship Celebration
10 am Easter Breakfast |

2018 Stewardship Campaign

The Finance Committee is pleased to announce the results of our 2018 Stewardship Campaign. **We have received 42 pledges in the amount of \$149,289, which represents a 23% increase over the amount pledged for 2017.** In addition to support for the general fund, we received designations for Food Gatherers, music, scholarships, missions, and youth. We thank you for your generous commitment to Dixboro United Methodist Church and its mission!

Brian Anderson, Finance Committee Chair



United Methodist Committee on Relief: UMCOR--Ministry in Action!

Thanks to you and others, UMCOR has delivered compassionate care and assistance to dozens of disaster-stricken regions of the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands last year. As of 12/4/17, UMCOR response during the recent hurricane season was:

Hurricane Maria Response in Puerto Rico

\$3.8 million in disaster relief and recovery grants

Collected:

32,256 hygiene kits

3,332 layette kits

6,732 cleaning buckets

11,760 school kits

48,960 bottles of water

Hurricane Harvey Response in Texas & Louisiana

\$2.3 million in disaster relief and recovery grants

Collected:

12,050 cleaning buckets

5,469 hygiene kits

Hurricane Irma Response in Florida

\$1 million in disaster relief and recovery grants

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Nov 28	UMC #GivingTuesday
Dec 2	Senior Fellowship Christmas Outing
Dec 3	Advent Wreath Making
Dec 3	Church Council Meeting
Dec 9	Dixboro Holiday Market
Dec 10	Cookie Walk
Dec 14	DUMW Holiday Tea
Dec 16	Dixboro Moms Night Out
Dec 17	Soup & Salad Christmas Party and Caroling around Dixboro
Dec 21	Longest Night Worship Service

Check out our website!

www.DixboroChurch.org

Check our website regularly to stay up-to-date with what's going on with our church. We have the **current calendar, pictures, sermon videos, and news** posted regularly. You will also find our weekly bulletins, along with this CHIMES (and previous editions) to view and download.

Rev. Tonya M. Arnesen
Lead Pastor

Rev. Mary Hagley
Minister of Children and Youth

Rev. Cathy Freeman
Deacon Emeritus

Zack Belsky
Director of Music Ministry

Kathleen Hucks
Administrative Assistant



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Like us on Facebook!

(734) 665-5632
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Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Upcoming Events at Dixboro Church



- Feb 10** Dixboro Moms
- Feb 11** Dixboro Family Valentine's Party
- Feb 17** VCI Pre-Consultation Workshop
- Feb 18** Dixboro United Methodist Women Meeting
- Feb 21** Senior Fellowship
- Feb 21-22, 25** VCI Consultation Event
- Feb 24** Dixboro Moms
- March 11** Lenten Brunch

Lenten Brunch coming on March 11!

It's that time of year again! Last year's Lenten brunch went very well, and your Nurture Team is looking forward to this year's event.

On Sunday, March 11, we will meet at 9:00am at assigned houses. You can volunteer to be a host(ess) or you can choose to be an attendee. We need both for a successful brunch. Each host(ess) will let the organizers (Dawn Anderson, Barb Scheffer, and Jane Worthy-Howlett) know how many guests s/he can accommodate. Any number is fine. It isn't necessary to have a big space.

Those who sign up to be attendees will be assigned a venue. The host(ess) will contact his/her assigned guests and let them know what to bring. Usually the host(ess) provides a main dish and coffee. The other guests can bring items such as juice, rolls, muffins, fruit, and so on. After breakfast, everyone heads straight for church at 10:30am.

Each group will have a unique question to discuss. A volunteer spokesperson from each group will give a short, 2-3 minute summary during the service. It is always fun to hear how each individual brunch went, what items were discussed, and how people responded.

The goal of the brunch is to help our congregation get to know each other on a more personal level, and to have an opportunity to talk about matters relevant to the future of Dixboro in a small group setting.

Questions? Already excited and want to host?? Already excited and want to attend?? Please call Dawn (717-5529), Barb (668-1450) or Jane (459-6273).

You will also have an opportunity to sign up during worship services.

Dixboro Family Valentine's Party Feb. 11

All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am after worship to share our love with each other and our visitors. You will have the opportunity to make Valentine's cards for our homebound members, snap pictures at the photobooth, and eat together. We encourage our Dixboro Friends to make Valentine's cards together, so please talk with your friend to arrange meeting up on Feb. 11.



Dixboro Moms Upcoming Gatherings

- February 10 @ 10:30 am
- February 24 @ 10:30am
- March 3 @ 4:00pm Serving Dinner at the Ronald McDonald House

Lenten Faith Activities for All Ages

Lent Begins Wednesday, February 14

The season of Lent is a wonderful time to start a new spiritual practice, such as reading your Bible, attending a Bible study, praying intentionally, or starting a family devotional time. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) and lasts 40 days (not including the Sundays). Sundays are excluded because those are the days we remember Jesus' resurrection. Every Sunday is a little celebration of Easter and thus a time of joy.

Historically, the Christian church has recognized Lent as a time to focus our attention on how we are living for God. It is a time to examine our lives to see how we can be in a better relationship with God. The 40 days of Lent are symbolic of Jesus' time in the wilderness before he began his ministry. During that time, he was tempted, but stayed true to God.

Ten Activities for Growing Closer to God during Lent (Don't feel like you have to do them all):

- 1. Attend an Ash Wednesday service** (6pm at Dixboro UMC) or reflect on the Ash Wednesday worksheet available at church.
- 2. Commit to a weekly devotional** as a family, or individually pick up a Lenten Devotional from church for a daily devotional.
- 3. Give something up for Lent as a family**, even if your kids are young enough that they may not understand. For example, give up candy as a blanket sacrifice, or no music in the car, no eating out, silent lunches, or drinking only water during Lent.
- 4. Set up an almsgiving box.** You simply set out a box, and take one thing from your own pantry every day of Lent. At the end of Lent, bring the box to church for Food Gatherers.
- 5. Set up an offering jar.** All you need is a jar or piggy bank of some kind. Spare change goes into the jar for the length of Lent, and then is donated.
- 6. Light Lenten candles on your dinner table each night** (much like an Advent wreath, but for Lent set them up as a cross). Use five purple candles and one pink candle.
- 7. Make pretzels together.** If you don't have time to do this from scratch, get the Pillsbury bread sticks in a can and make them that way. Find out the meaning of the pretzel while doing this activity.
- 8. Lenten cleaning.** Rather than the idea of "Spring cleaning," clean one area of your home every day during Lent. Your house is beautiful and clean for Easter!
- 9. Decide one day of the week during Lent to go "screen free" as a family.**
- 10. Attend the Good Friday Potluck & Worship** on Friday, March 30 at 5:45pm with worship at 6:30pm.

Three Family Friendly Focused Activities:

- Countdown the days of Lent with a Lenten calendar for your kids—a lot easier than making paper chains!
- Sing "The Lent Song" with your kids.
- Use the Holy Week Box to journey alongside Jesus' last week.



Faith Formation Corner by Rev. Mary Worshipping with Kids

Over the past six months, we have been blessed with an influx of babies and young children in our congregation, PRAISE GOD! However, as with any change, it takes time to figure out how to respectfully worship with baby noises and talking toddlers. Over the past four years, we have been praying for these little ones and their families, and God has answered our prayers because they are here and are an integral part of our Dixboro Family!



Children in Worship is essential to the faith journey of our children and to all of us. Children learn how to worship by worshipping with the congregation. On the flip side, if children aren't present here with us, we miss out too! Without children, the Body of Christ is incomplete. We need everyone from the babies to toddlers to youth to young families to empty nesters to retirees to seniors to be present to complete the circle at God's Table. As the Dixboro Church Family we are committed to providing a welcoming and loving atmosphere where a child's faith journey can be nurtured.

As we work together as the Body of Christ, we ask you to extend grace to families with young children by reading through these tips. And we, as young parents, commit to following the tips below also.

By participating in worship, children:

- Know the mystery and wonder of God
- Build strong memories that will inform their faith over time
- Feel God's love
- Recognize they are valued as a fellow child of God
- Understand they are welcome and part of the body of Christ
- Experience liturgy, sacraments, prayers, and other worship traditions that shape their understanding of God
- Learn they belong to God
- Hear scripture and begin to see how God might speak to them.

Tips for Parents

- **Don't worry!** God put the wiggle in children—don't feel like you have to suppress it completely. Encourage your children to sit and stand at the appropriate times.
- **Find a good place to sit.** Sitting near an aisle can be helpful if you need to get up.
- **Guide children throughout the worship service and help them participate.** Children enjoy using the worship bulletin, finding hymns, signing the attendance pad, and passing the offering plate. Even non-readers can hold hymnals and hum along. Children like to be ready and feel involved.
- **Pick up a worship bag.** the worship bag is filled with quiet activities for your children to use during worship.
- **Use a gentle touch.** Holding your child's hand or placing an arm around their shoulder provides reassurance and appropriate attention.
- **Whisper quiet instructions and explanations.**
- **Discuss worship before and after the service.** Talk about what to expect, how to behave, what they heard in worship, and where they felt God. Younger children enjoy "playing church" at home.
- **Bring snacks.** Morning worship typically falls during morning snack time, feel free to distract with food.
- **What should I do?** If your child becomes too restless and needs a break, you may take them to the narthex to play in our children's worship space or get up and move to the back of the sanctuary. For those who desire it, nursery care is available. (*continued ...*)

(... continued) Faith Formation Corner by Rev. Mary, Worshipping with Kids in Worship

Friends of Children can help nurture the young families in worship:

- **Warmly welcome the children near you.** As you arrive or during the greeting, be sure to say hello or share a friendly smile!
- **Extend hospitality.** Get to know the children of our congregation by name. Ask the children how their week has been or what part of worship they like best. Tell parents that you appreciate having them at church.
- **Help children feel involved in worship.** Include them in passing the offering, signing the attendance pad, etc.
- **Remember our baptismal vows** to nurture the children in our midst. We are all 'godparents,' whether we realize it or not!
- **Be patient and understanding when children become restless.** Allow parents to choose what they feel is best for their child. Remember we are all precious children of God.
- **Share positive reinforcement with the children.** "It was so nice to have you singing along with us."
- **Look for the gifts a child's presence can bring to our time of worship.** What do children teach you about God and what it means to be the body of Christ?

VCI Corner: Important VCI Congregational Events

by Harold Tuckett

As Dixboro Church's participation in the Vital Church Initiative (VCI) progresses to our Consultation Event (Feb. 21-22, 25), there will be two important events intended for the entire congregation.

On Saturday, February 17, we will have the "Pre-consultation Workshop" from 9:30 to 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. It will be led by our assigned directive coach, Lisa Batten. The purpose of this workshop is to introduce the congregation to some of the key concepts and language of the Vital Church Initiative, answer any questions or address any concerns you may have about the Consultation Event and give you an opportunity to offer feedback to our coach. It will begin with a light continental breakfast at 9:30am. The 90-minute workshop will begin at 10:00am. Childcare will be available.

And on Wednesday, February 21, as part of the first day of our Consultation Event, there will be a dinner and workshop for the entire consultation from 6:00 to 9:00pm. The UMW will provide a dinner at 6:00, the workshop will begin at 7:00, and it will run until 9:00. Topics to be covered include the congregation's current reality and the principles of a healthy congregation. There will be extensive interaction with the consultation team, and opportunities to ask questions and offer feedback. Families: We ask for at least one representative to stay for the workshop, but please bring your whole family to dinner. It's important for our VCI program to have as many members of our congregation as possible participate in these programs.



Lost & Found

Several weeks ago I used my umbrella to enter church and placed it on the shelf opposite the water cooler. After service when I was leaving, the umbrella was not where I had left it. It is a folding black with polka dots.

If you have a polka dot umbrella, please check to see if you have two of them.

Thank you.

Hugs,
Carole Buttrum

What's With All the Cans & Boxes of Food in the Hallway?

By Amy Knutilla



Dixboro Church regularly donates non-perishable items to Food Gatherers. In 2017, we donated more than 760 pounds of food! A volunteer from Dixboro Church brings our donations to Food Gatherers in Ann Arbor. Food Gatherers then distributes the food to 150 partners and programs serving Washtenaw County. Recently, Tom and I started donating a couple of hours a week at one of these partners, Hope Clinic's Food Pantry in Ypsilanti. We arrive after the Food Gatherers truck has delivered non-perishables plus produce, and we prepare the items for the Pantry where food is provided to families and individuals in need the following day. An interesting note: Donations of spices are greatly appreciated because they encourage a healthy, low-sodium diet. Dixboro Church has traditionally dedicated the second Sunday of the month for donations, but you may donate your non-perishable items any time. Please place them in the bin next to the water cooler, across from Fellowship Hall.

Donating Stock Securities to the Church

By Robert L. Baird

The Church and our congregation are starting out the new year, having recently made a pledge for 2018 and the budget has been approved. With this in mind, I would like to suggest that you consider donating stock to the Church.

While this may seem different, there are some unique advantages. There is what I like to call a "Triple Play." (1) You avoid the capital gains tax, (2) you may also receive a charitable deduction on your tax return, and (3) you support your Dixboro United Methodist Church.

The routine for donating securities to the Church is a relatively simple two step process:

1. Notify your broker or financial advisor that you would like to transfer a specific number of shares of a named security that you own directly to the Church's account at Edward Jones Investments. You will need to provide the following information:

Brokerage: Edward Jones Investments, 3055 Plymouth Rd, Suite 201, Ann Arbor, MI

Account: Dixboro United Methodist Church Brokerage Account

Account Number: 672-09084- 1-4

DTC Number: 0057

2. When you transfer the stock, please contact Randall Hucks, our Church Treasurer, so that we can credit the donation to you and provide you with a receipt for your tax records. When the Church receives the securities to its account, there is no identification as to the donor. You need to tell the Church that you are the donor.

It is the Church's policy to sell the shares promptly upon receipt of the securities. For valuation purposes, IRS regulations value the gift based on the average trading price on the date of the transfer. Not the date the Church sells the stock.

Thank you for your continued support to the Church. If there are questions, please give Randy or myself a call.

History Corner

by Susan D. Engle

Fast forward to 1908, fifty years after the Dixboro Church was built. The pastor who served between late Oct. 1906 through Sep. 1909 was a student in Ann Arbor. A catalog of *Officers and Students*, published in 1912 by the University, lists his graduation: "Chester Miller Loomis, A.B., A.M. '10. Methodist Clergyman. Clayton, Mich." The fall 1906 appointment was listed as "Dixboro – to be supplied" in the Detroit Annual Conference journal. Apparently Mr. Loomis was in the right place at the right time to serve the Dixboro Church and must have done well. In Dale Leslie's booklet, *Tidbits & Trivia*, it says on p. 19, "46 members were received into the church during the Loomis's pastorate." That number looks good to me, even though he served *two* small churches: Dixboro Church and Free Church (a non-denominational church a few miles east).

In Rev. Ronald Brunger's history, he mentioned a Nov. 1906 meeting: "The official board met at the Church to reorganize – Pastor (C. M. Loomis) in the chair. Present[:] Philo Galpin, Sarah Shuart, Mary Rice, Mrs. Cowan, Mary Keedle, — John Quackenbush was elected chairman — Mary Keedle Sec. [&] Treasurer. Mr Mattison and Quackenbush were appointed a committee to hire a janitor. Motion made and carried to buy brackets to put in seats for collection envelopes."

Later, Rev. Loomis was appointed to other churches for one year each, which was common at the time. In 1912 he became a Deacon and was admitted into full membership in the Detroit Conference. In 1914, I was surprised to see him listed as Withdrawn. (I wonder why?)

Chester had married Agnes M. Taylor in 1903. She was five years younger. They had no children in the 1910 census, but the 1920 census listed two children, ages 7 and 6, Chester M. and Helen. The memorial pages at Findagrave.com show both deaths in 1959 on the single stone in Forest Home Cemetery, Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan. They had lived there since the 1920 census.

I researched my Loomis ancestors many years ago. In the book, *Descendants of Joseph Loomis in America* (1908), p. 404, no. 7859, Chester M. Loomis was born March 19, 1874. His (and my) immigrant ancestor had come to America from England in the late 1630s, along with many relatives.

I have no idea if Rev. Loomis and/or his family are in this photo.



Dixboro Methodist Episcopal Church (in village of Dixboro, Superior Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan) 1909

Dixboro United Methodist Church
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Ann Arbor, MI 48105



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE CHIMES

Dixboro United Methodist
Church Newsletter

February 2018



Dixboro Church

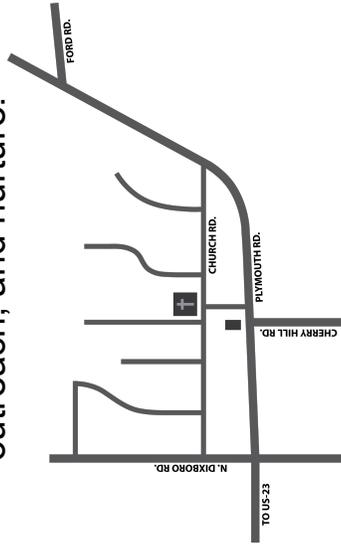
Connect. Grow. Serve.

Rev. Tonya M. Arnesen, Lead Pastor
Rev. Mary Hagley, Minister of Children and Youth
Rev. Cathy Freeman, Deacon Emeritus
Church Phone: (734) 665-5632

Worship Schedule:
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:00am
Sunday Worship at 10:00am

Email: dumc@dixborochurch.org
Web site: www.dixborochurch.org

"The mission of the Dixboro United Methodist Church is to develop and sustain disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, education, outreach, and nurture."



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