

# TOWER NOTES NEWSLETTER

## April 2018 Edition

353 E Vienna Rd  
Clio, MI 48420

**Bethany United  
Methodist Church**

[www.cliobethany.org](http://www.cliobethany.org)  
810-686-5151

| <b>The Season of Lent and Easter</b>                 |   |   |                |                   |
|--|---|---|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Point and Counterpoint – The Passion of Jesus</b> |   |   |                |                   |
| Sermons Dates and Titles                             |   | Scriptures                              | Worship Leader | Sound Booth       |
| April 1 <sup>st</sup>                                | <i>Easter Sunday/April's Fools Day</i><br>Counterpoint: Death is Life | 1 Corinthians 3: 18-20<br>Mark 16: 1-13 | Jerry Mowl     | Marc Middleton    |
| <b>"The Gifts of Easter"</b>                         |   |   |                |                   |
| April 8 <sup>th</sup>                                | "The Gift of Peace"   | John 20: 19-23                          | Les Randall    | Kris Frazier      |
| April 15 <sup>th</sup>                               | "The Gift of Faith"   | John 20: 24-29                          | Marc Middleton | Elizabeth Whiting |
| April 22 <sup>nd</sup>                               | "The Gift of Introduction"  | Luke 24: 13-35                          | Tom Hendricks  | Marc Middleton    |
| April 29 <sup>th</sup>                               | "The Gift of Presence"  | John 21: 1-14                           | Vicki Neelands |                   |
| May 6 <sup>th</sup>                                  | <i>Communion Sunday</i><br>"The Gift of Forgiveness"                  | John 21: 15-17                          | Otis Stout     | Marc Middleton    |
| May 13 <sup>th</sup>                                 | <i>Ascension Sunday</i><br>"The Gift of Confidence"                   | Matthew 28: 16-20                       | Ron Lemmon     | Kris Frazier      |
| May 20 <sup>th</sup>                                 | <i>Pentecost Sunday</i><br>"The Gift of Power"                        | Acts 2: 1-8, 12                         | Hope Robinson  | Elizabeth Whiting |

### **Other upcoming events to watch out for:**

- Living Last Supper, Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Clio Bethany UMC
- Prayer Vigil, 9pm on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> until noon on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>
- Good Friday Service, Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 7pm at West Vienna UMC
- Easter Breakfast, Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am at Clio Bethany UMC
- Easter Service, Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am at Clio Bethany UMC



Dear friends,

The crocus have bloomed in my backyard, and robins have been sighted once again. We have survived another Michigan winter, and we are eager for the sunshine and warmth of spring. Easter is only days away, with fragrant lilies, colorful eggs, baby chicks, empty tombs ... and a rabbit who brings chocolate and jelly beans. What's not to love?

For those of us in the northern hemisphere, the symbols of Easter are deeply connected to the signs of spring. The holy day often coincides with the coming of warmer weather, sprouting flowers, greener grass, hungry robins and brighter sunshine. It is easy for us to make the association between the gift of resurrection and the coming to life of nature all around us. Joy and life and hope abound! Alleluia!

But what about the folks who live in the southern hemisphere? When Easter arrives for them, they are in the midst of autumn, on the edge of winter. Although they embrace the same symbols we do, those images are in direct contradiction to what they see all around them. Below the equator, the promise of new life and fertility and sustenance and hope comes when the leaves are dying and falling, when the fields are harvested and barren, when the grass withers and fades away. What does Easter feel like then? Is it easier, or more difficult, to celebrate the risen Lord?

I wonder if it isn't more comforting to claim the joy of Easter when the world around us appears to be dying and dormant. Isn't that when we need it most? Isn't it in the midst of darkness that we most appreciate glimmers of light? In the places of despair and sorrow, that we most need hope? In the face of death, that we most treasure the promise of resurrection life? The gospel of Jesus Christ seems most powerful to me when it stands in opposition to the reality of the world around me. In a world torn by war and violence, Jesus proclaims peace; in the face of greed and oppression, Jesus calls for justice; in spite of our racism and fear, Jesus commands us to love. Perhaps Easter is more meaningful when it is seen as a direct contradiction to our world, rather than in harmony with it.

Maybe, one year, we will take an Easter field trip to Australia. We will hold a Sunrise Service in a barren field and proclaim life and hope as daybreak pierces the darkness. We will decorate the altar with pots of Nerine Bowdenii, and maybe add a Baobab tree. The Nerine Bowdenii is a beautiful flower with soft, fragile blossoms; and the Baobab is a tree with deep roots and nearly horizontal branches, bearing an egg-shaped fruit full of healthy seeds and nutritious pulp. Both bloom in the late autumn, when most other crops and flowers have become dormant for the winter. They are the Easter lilies of the southern hemisphere.

Until then, we would do well to remember that the promise of Easter is not only true in the springtime seasons of our lives. Regardless of what is happening, or blossoming, or dormant around us, the risen Christ gives us peace, and hope, and life. May your heart and soul be filled with all of God's blessings as we celebrate our first Easter together.

Shalom,

Pastor Cathi

## **Whine and Dine**

Billy's was a great place for the Whine and dine group to meet and eat. Again, there were lots of laughs, good food, and walks down memory lane. Next month we will head down the road to Beamer, on the corner of Gera and Birch Run roads. If you are a widowed or single please feel free to join us. We gather between 12:30 and 1:00. Hope to see you there.

### **Sunday School Options:**

- Amy Dickinson teaches the younger children (Kindergarten – 4<sup>th</sup> grade) in room 4
- Marc Middleton teaches the youth (5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) in room 3
- Sue Boyse teaches the adults in room 2 through a book study:
- Jerry Bradow leads the Pathfinders class in the lounge (room 1). They do a book by book study of the bible.

**\*All the Sunday School rooms are in the entrance wing of the church across from the main office**

### **Choir:**

Choir will be practicing on Wednesdays at 7:15pm and on Sundays at 8:30am. All are welcome to join. See Rachel DeShone for more information.

### **Men's Night Out:**

Men's Night Out meets every Tuesday at 6pm. They will continue with a video and discussion to follow. They will serve dinner and a free will offering will be taken up for it. I'm looking forward to continuing this fall's program! Blessings! – Jerry Mowl

### **Wednesday Evening Bible Study**

Continuing on Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm, there will be a new Bible Study led by Pastor Cathi. We will read and discuss the Old Testament Books of 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles, using the Immersion Bible Study by Abingdon Press.

This 8-week study will explore this historical section of the Bible, encouraging us to see the connections between the Books, and the significance of Israel's choice to have an earthly King.

**Everyone is welcome!**

### **NEW TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY!**

Starting April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am, there will be a new women's bible study led by Donna West. The book is called "A Life Beyond Amazing (Living a God Inspired Life)". Topics include: love, joy, peace, endurance, compassion, generosity, integrity, humility, and self-discipline. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering room for those interested in the study and getting the study-book. Any questions, see Donna West.

## Youth Opportunities:



CORE is for all middle and high school students that want to do something after school on Wednesday. Starting in September, from 3:00-5:00, we meet for homework time, fun, bible study, and snack. At 5:00 CORE connects with Wednesday Night Live so there are service and study opportunities, with dinner served at 6:00pm

## Wednesday Night Schedule

CORE/Hobbies – 3:00pm-4:30pm

Youth Chimes – 4:45pm-5:30pm

Bible Study – 5:30pm-6:00pm

Dinner – 6:00pm

## Upcoming Events

- Easter Breakfast – 9:00am on April 1<sup>st</sup>
- No Wednesday Evening Activities (CORE/WNL) – April 4<sup>th</sup>

### Word from our Ad Board Chair:

**God has a purpose for your life on earth, but it doesn't end here. His plan involves far more than the few decades you will spend on this planet. Its more than "the opportunity of a lifetime." God offers you an opportunity of a lifetime. The Bible says, God's plans endure forever, his purposes last eternally.**

***\*Deadline for the May Tower Notes will be April 24th! Have your information to the church office or Marc Middleton. If***

***possible, email it to me at***

***[youth@cliobethany.org](mailto:youth@cliobethany.org)***

***Don't Miss the***

***DEADLINE!***

***Any questions, contact Marc Middleton.***



### General Fund Envelope Fundraiser!

The General Fund is used to pay for the things that keep this Church running every day. Help us meet our General Fund needs by making an extra donation. Pick an envelope and pay the amount on the envelope.

### Need of Paraments

Our church is in need of two new altar cloths (called paraments) with coordinating pulpit cloths (called scarves). The white parament is used for the sacraments, such as Christmas, Easter and weddings. The green parament is used for many other weeks, such as during spring/summer and fall/winter. The colors used each month to cover the altar and pulpit are suggested by The United Methodist Planning Calendar.

These covers, which need to be custom made, will cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Donations from our church family will be appreciated. Any amount you wish to give can be made by placing it in a pew envelope with a designation "Altar Cloths". If you have any questions, please see Karen Nichols

## Camp Scholarships

*It is hard to believe, but in 4 months our kids will be headed to camp. We have approximately 8 to 10 campers this year. Soooo as usual, we are looking for some monetary help.*

*The cost for one camper is \$300.00 and we as a Church have supplied that for all campers. We want to say thanks to those who have contributed to the camp scholarship so far. If you would like to contribute and haven't yet, it's as simple as adding \$10 to your weekly offering or put in a pew envelope marked "Camp Scholarship." Imagine if everyone could do that, we'd pay for a camper in a week.*

*Camp is such a great experience and a time to learn more about Jesus and his love for us. Thank you in advance for all your help in making this happen again this summer.*



The food pantry needs:

- Mac & Cheese
- Syrup
- Pancake Mix
- Jello
- Pudding
- Corn Muffin Mix

Donations can be dropped off in the box that is in the entrance wing by the offices!

We invite everyone to come out and join us for a live-action portrayal of the Living Last Supper on Thursday, March 29th. It starts at 7pm here at Clio Bethany UMC. Any questions, contact Jane Fuller.



## Prayer Vigil Sign-Up and Procedures

Bethany will continue our Prayer Vigil starting at 9:00pm Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> through noon on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up sheet is broken up by ½ hour increments and next to the sign-up sheet will be a post-it note pad, so you can write down your time slot to remember. You may sign up for one or more ½ hour slots. It would be nice if we can have a minimum of two individuals for each time slot. This year, we will have materials in the narthex for you to use during your prayer time. The doors to the church will be locked always for your safety. There will be a person at the door to let you in and out.

**Easter Breakfast  
April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am**

We will be having:

- Breakfast Quiches
- Sausage
- Fruit
- Cereal



**Join Us For  
Breakfast**

We hope that you will join us for this time of fellowship and later join us for Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30.

Any questions, contact either Marc Middleton or Amy Dickinson

***Sharing Grace in Perilous Times***

Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 9am-4pm at  
University United Methodist Church  
1120 South Harrison Rd.  
East Lansing, MI 48423

**“Blessed are the Peacemakers”  
is a high calling.**

Cost: \$25-\$30, see Pastor Cathi for additional  
discounts

How do peacemakers practice the Good News of Jesus Christ in a nation polarized by partisan politics?

How can laity and pastors get the Gospel heard, believed, and lived?

If anyone is interested, please see

Pastor Cathi

*Blessings*

BLESSED BE THE LORD WHO DAILY LOADS US WITH  
BENEFITS, EVEN THE GOD OF OUR SALVATION.  
PSALM 68:19

**UMW Spring Fellowship:**

You are cordially invited to our UMW Spring Fellowship, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Our session will be Rene Jeffords: “The Hands and Feet of Christ”

Rene has been working to help establish a Joshua’s House in Zimbabwe. She will also update us with new regarding Joshua’s House in Clare.

Optional Ingathering: Clothing 0-12 months (new or almost new)

Please sign up in the Narthex by April 9<sup>th</sup>

### New District Formation Meeting

There will be a Formation District #6 Conference on April 22, 2018 at 3pm at Lapeer Trinity UMC.

At the District #6 Conference, operating budgets, nominations of district leadership and approving the official name of District #6 will all be voted on.

Everyone is welcome to attend and vote at this historic formation of the new district!

### Scripture Study for April 2018

|                  |                               |                  |                                      |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Judges 6-7                    | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Samuel 25-27                       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Judges 8-9                    | 18 <sup>th</sup> | Psalms 17, 35, 54, 63                |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Judges 10-12                  | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Samuel 28-31; Psalm 18             |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Judges 13-15                  | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Psalms 121, 123-125, 128-130         |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Judges 16-18                  | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 2 Samuel 1-4                         |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Judges 19-21                  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Psalms 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Ruth 1-4                      | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 1 Chronicles 1-2                     |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 1 Samuel 1-3                  | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Psalms 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87          |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 1 Samuel 4-8                  | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Chronicles 3-5                     |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Samuel 9-12                 | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Psalms 73, 77-78                     |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Samuel 13-14                | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Chronicles 6                       |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Samuel 15-17                | 28 <sup>th</sup> | Psalms 81, 88, 92-93                 |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Samuel 18-20; Psalms 11, 59 | 29 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Chronicles 7-10                    |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Samuel 21-24                | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 2 Samuel 5:10;<br>1 Chronicles 11-12 |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Psalms 7, 27, 31, 34, 52      |                  |                                      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Psalms 56, 120, 140-142       |                  |                                      |

# **MISSION'S REPORT**

- Donations
  - Donated \$1,500 to Clio Backpack Program for fall of 2018.
    - This is a weekend food assistance for children in the Clio Area.
- Sent Funds
  - Randy Hildebrandt, missionary in the UP, \$1,600
  - Love Christian Services, \$500
  - \$200 each to:
    - Baldwin Center
    - Heifer International
    - Family Promise
    - World Hunger and Poverty
    - Homelessness in the US
    - Water for Life
    - Clio Resource Fund
    - Courage Town
- Other items:
  - November 2017 Love Offering was \$817.38
  - VG Receipts totaled \$14,577
- Events (Past/Upcoming):
  - January 28<sup>th</sup> – Blanket Sunday
  - March 11<sup>th</sup> – Beef Stew Luncheon
  - May 13<sup>th</sup> – Love Bank Distributed
  - June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Strawberry Brunch

Next meeting: March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am



## **Birthdays**

5<sup>th</sup> – Harlow Crawford

7<sup>th</sup> – John Matthews, Hope Robinson

13<sup>th</sup> – Sally Crawford

16<sup>th</sup> – Jerry Stadler, Stephen Weaver, Jim Brown

17<sup>th</sup> – Janet Wilbanks

18<sup>th</sup> – Randy Bradburn

19<sup>th</sup> – Jean Marsden

24<sup>th</sup> – Lorraine Bowdish

26<sup>th</sup> – Samantha Fisher

27<sup>th</sup> – Betty Borden

28<sup>th</sup> – Louanne Schweitzer

## **Anniversaries**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Bob and Donna Sanborn

4<sup>th</sup> – James and Robin Brouker

12<sup>th</sup> – Frederick and Doris Osmun

13<sup>th</sup> – Jack and Debbie Morgan

18<sup>th</sup> – Jerry and Kathleen Stadler

21<sup>st</sup> – John and Vicki Neelands

