

Breckenridge United Methodist Church



November - December 2020 Newsletter

Pastor Billie Lou 810-241-3160

Special Announcement!!!!

Due to the Governor's & Bishop Bards most recent COVID update, there will be **no in-person worship** for the next three weeks. In person worship on Sunday mornings may resume on December 13, depending on the COVID-19 restrictions that are in place at that time. In the meantime, Sunday services will be available on YouTube. Links are on our Facebook page or just search for the Breckenridge United Methodist Church on YouTube. Let's all do our part to flatten the curve in Michigan.

All Saints Day Celebrated



On November 1, we celebrated All Saints day where we honored the memories of members who have gone on to glory during the past year. The altar was beautifully decorated with butterflies that had the names of the saints written on them. Those that were remembered were; Joel Colbry, Juanita Crippen, Denise Fiting, Leo Graham, Pat Laitinen, Jim McLean, Terry Nagel, Eugene Oberst, Clayton Peters, Betty Shankel, Dale Stoneman, and Charlene VanHaften.

Digital Sign Fund

The Church Council has approved the establishment of a Digital Sign Fund. This was the last project that Joel Colbry was working on while he was serving our church as the head trustee. The plan is to install a new digital sign to replace the one on the corner of Third and Chestnut to display our church announcements. The cost of such a sign is over \$20,000, so it may take a while to reach that goal, but once we have the funds, we will install a new modern sign that can be changed using a keyboard in the office instead of putting the letters in, one by one, into the brackets on our present sign. If you would like to donate to this fund, bring or send your

donations to the church office, with the indication that it is for this fund. Below is a sample of what the digital sign may look like.



Church Full of Treats!



Halloween night was an unusually warm night, compared to recent Halloweens and we held the “Church Full of Treats” event outside in a pandemic safe manner. We had a drive-through area where people could receive their treats without getting out of their cars and a walk up station. We were surprised by the large number of walkers on that night, but overall it was a successful night. We handed out about 400 bags of treats and had the added attraction of the Maple Leaf Cotton Candy wagon handing out treats. **Erin and John Fitzgerald** wanted to give back to the community after coming to our inside event for many years, so they brought up their wagon of treats and passed out cotton candy, caramel corn and popcorn to all the trick or treaters, in memory of Uncle Terry Nagel.



Shoebox Mission Project

The Kids' Church filled 12 boxes with toys, books, school supplies, and personal hygiene items to donate to Operation Christmas Child Mission. The students pictured below are Matthew and Michael Ruzzkowski and JJ Murphy. The materials for the boxes were donated by Lillie Hoard, Carin SanMiguel and Karen Stoneman. The BUMC donated 32 boxes to this worthy cause. The mission is organized by Samaritan's Purse International Relief and helps children all over the world have a brighter Christmas. Thank you to all who donated to this mission.



Giving Opportunities

We currently have several opportunities to give to make a difference in someone's life. The **Angel Tree** is set up in the narthex with children of prisoners at the St. Louis Correctional Facility. Each angel has a Christmas wish of one of those children that you can fill and bring to church. When your gift is ready please call the church office for Carin SanMiguel or Pastor to make arrangements to drop off or they are also willing to pick up. These are due by November 29. We need the angel tags to accompany the gift. **Flood Bucket** information is also in the Narthex. If you can provide items, bring them to church and we will see if we can provide some help for future victims of flood disasters.

Other Things that You Need to Know

- ✓ Temperatures will now be taken for people entering the church on Sundays & during the week. This is due to the increasing number of cases in our area. This is being done to help keep everyone safe! (This will be true when we return to in person worship). Please call the church office before coming. Michele will be in the office on Tuesdays only at this time.
- ✓ We are looking for people that might be interested in running the screens and doing the audio for our Sunday services. We currently only have two people, Bob Edgar and Dave Briggs doing this. We would like to have a team of 4 people, so if you are willing to do this, see Bob Edgar, Dave Briggs, or Pastor Billie Lou.
- ✓ The UMW is selling the remaining stock of Rada cutlery at half price! See Sharon Howie or Joyce Short to take advantage of this sale.
- ✓ Do you miss coffee hour after church? The pandemic has taken away many of our normal activities and coffee hour is one of them. There is a suggestion that we have a "Zoom" Coffee Hour. There would be a group of people who could log on to Zoom and have a conversation, catch up on the latest news and see some faces that you may have been missing. This is an idea in its infancy, but if you would be interested in participating, contacts Michele at the church office. If we get enough people who are interested, we will set something up.
- ✓ This year's Church Conference will be held via Zoom with District Superintendent, Jerry DeVine on December 6. The SPRC will meet with the D.S. from 4-5 pm. Church Charge Conf. is from 5-6 pm. A Zoom link will be sent out the week prior. The Nominations Committee, Church Council, and SPRC are all finishing up the forms necessary for this conference.

- ✓ Dave Stoneman is looking for people who would be willing to serve as ushers. This volunteer opportunity would come up about once a month. If you can help your church in this way, contact Dave Stoneman or Pastor Billie Lou.
- ✓ No Hall rentals due to COVID restrictions until further notice.
- ✓ CARE calls will be made Committee Leadership starting shortly to check in with members.
- ✓ Hanging of the Greens will be Saturday, November 28 from 9 am – noon. Advent theme: “Angels Amongst Us – Be Not Afraid”. Christmas Eve plans are being made and will be announced shortly.

*Shared by Pastor Billie Lou
In these times turn closer to God -
In Whom We Trust!*

My friend, Arlene, and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband’s employer’s home. She was very nervous about the weekend. The boss was wealthy with a beautiful home, with cars costing more than her home. The first day and evening went very well. Arlene was delighted to have a glimpse into how the wealthy live. The host was very generous and took them to the finest restaurants. As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant, the boss, walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband, stopped suddenly, looking down at the pavement for a silent moment. Arlene wondered if she and her husband should pass him up. There was nothing on the ground except a single tarnished penny. He held it, smiled, and put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What did a man like this need with one penny? What did a man like this need with one penny? Why would he even take time to stop and pick it up?

During dinner the scene nagged at her. She couldn’t stand it any longer. She mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection and asked if the penny he found had some value. A smile crept across the man’s face. He reached into his pocket and handed it to her. She has seen many pennies before! What was the point in this? “Look at it,” he said. Read what it says. She read “United States of America?” No, not that, read further. “One Cent?” No, keep reading. “In God we trust?” Yes, and if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me to trust him. Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I stop; I pray and ask myself if my trust is really in God at that moment. I pick up the coin as a response to God: that I do trust him. For a moment

I cherish it as if it were gold. I think that it's God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful.

When I was shopping today, I found a penny. I stopped and picked it up and realized that I had been worrying and fretting about things that I have no control over. I read the words, "In God We Trust" and had to laugh. Yes, God, I got the message. It seems that I have found a lot of pennies lately. Pennies are plentiful and God is patient. May the Lord Bless and keep you in His loving care.