

Methodist Message

May 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Baby Bottle Boomerang	2
UMW	2
Church Happenings	3
July Birthdays	3
July Anniversaries	3
Thank you	3

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Proverbs 31: 30 (NIV)*

My mother fulfilled a host of roles in my growing up years: seamstress, chauffeur, cook, nurse, cheerleader, guidance counselor, and more. The majority of her positions changed as my siblings and I grew up, left home to pursue our dream, and started our own families, but Mom's role as prayer intercessor remained until she started her final journey toward heaven.

Mom was a woman of prayer. This irked me when I was a teenager who wanted to follow the desires of my heart, rather than do what was right. The last thing I wanted to hear was, "Grace, I'm praying that you'll listen to Jesus and change your ways." I knew Mom's prayers were powerful. Fighting them was pointless.

I was a freshman in Bible college before I began to appreciate the seriousness with which Mom embraced her intercessory role. She prayed me through the fear of making new friends, writing research papers, and auditioning for choir. She cried out to Jesus on my behalf when I sought summer employment and when a broken engagement broke my heart. Later, she pleaded for my health and safety as I moved to Nepal in my early twenties, newly married and naïve about cross-cultural life.

I knew I could count on Mom to pray me through whatever challenge I faced. This filled me with courage and gratitude. Of all the roles she played, intercession bore the greatest significance. After all, that head-strong teenager finally came around. Thanks Mom!

Written by Grace Fox, from *Mornings with Jesus*

As we think this month about the roles that women have played in our lives I'm sure many can relate to the thoughts of Grace Fox. Teachers: Mrs. Baker (K) & Mrs. Nichols (! & 2) who taught me unconditional love, patience, and kindness and Mrs. Mary Baker (High School art) who taught me that we don't have to color within the lines. UMW elder sisters: Ada Turner who taught me to continue doing the work of the Kingdom as long as possible and Rose Slider who taught me to never say, "We've always done it that way" and to promote change for growth. Rev. Sharon Rader, lead pastor of Traverse City Central UMC and later became one of our UMC Bishops and Rev. Joy Barrett who both gave me excellent examples of women leading in ministry. My own mother, Helen Bogart, who played many of the same roles as Grace Fox's mother, and my maternal Grandmother, Dorothy Shapton, who was my spiritual mentor, example and prayer intercessor. Grandma led in the church and in the family in spite of great physical pain and hardship due to a crippling disease contracted giving birth to my aunt. She believed in just "getting up and getting going" no matter what she was feeling like.

I'm sure you have many women that have helped to make you who you are—

Give God the thanks. *Pastor Billie Lou*



NEW MINISTRY @ BUMC

HEALTH CARE TEAM

Active and retired medically trained persons and non-medical persons to assist, will be offering to take your blood pressures, O2 readings, look at bruises or stitches, etc. before or after the 1st Sunday of the month worship service using the Chapel for privacy and confidentiality. You will receive a small tri-fold register of your readings to keep in your wallet for doctor appointments. Lois Arthur is leading this new ministry—contact her with ?

ALSO COMING TO SOON TO BUMC Art & Music Camp

Art & Music Camp returns for a third year offering elementary age children an opportunity to explore several different forms of art and to learn about a few instruments during a 3- 1/2 day period of fun. This year Camp will be June 19—June 21 from 12(noon) - 2pm, with a simple lunch being offered from 11:30-noon. We will offer to walk any morning summer school students from the elementary building over to the church for lunch. Volunteer art guides are needed again this year as well as persons who will put the simple lunch together. See sign up lists in gathering area. You do not need artistic training—just a desire to work with happy, creative children. A Gallery featuring their art work will be held on Thursday, June 22 @ 7pm.

She is clothed with strength and dignity; She can laugh at the days to come. Proverbs 31:35

Dear Friends,



United
Women
in Faith

This verse from Proverbs reminds me of our United Women in Faith members. These ladies quietly take on projects and stand ready at a moments notice to prepare a luncheon for funerals and memorials. They each have my personal thanks and gratitude for their commitment. Our recent Potato Bash and Palm Sunday Cookie walk increased our treasury by \$640. Many thanks to those who contributed. A few of the local projects we help support are : Human Services, Commission on Aging, and Salvation Army. This summer, May thru September, UWIF will be preparing the free Community dinner. This allows the standing committee to have a summer break. Once again, I extend a big thank you to our members and those who support us!

Blessings, Sue Baker, UWIF President

Looking forward— Dates to Remember:

- May 7 Ladies Tea—BUMC 2:00-4:00
All ladies are invited—Please RSVP via the sign up sheet in the Narthex
- May 10 Dorcas Circle—1:00 PM
- May 12-13 Spiritual Growth Retreat, De Witt, MI (Fri. night/Sat.) Pre-registration required
- May 17 Carrie Knause Circle—9:30 AM



Sunday, May 7—God’s Daughter Tea
2 PM—BUMC

Wednesday, May 10— Dorcas Circle
Mtg @1 PM @ SLFUMC

Thursday, May 11—Y.A.H.A.

Sunday, May 14—Mother’s Day /Festival
of the Christian Home

Tuesday, May 16—CPR Training 6-9pm

Wednesday, May 17— Carrie Knause
Mtg @ 9:30 AM @ SLFUMC

Thursday, May 18—lunch & gifts for HS
Seniors @ HS Library 11:30

Tuesday, May 23—Sandwich Supper
@SLFUMC

Sunday, May 28—Memorial Sunday

Sunday, June 4—Graduation Sunday

Please turn names of graduates from high school, tech or trade school, college, or university in to the church office so we can honor grads on Sun. June 4 during the service with a gift and special coffee hour.

The Outreach Team will be making & serving lunch to Graduates at the HS Library & giving them a small gift on Thurs. May 18 at 11:30. If you’d like to help contact Dave Briggs.

MEMORIAL SUNDAY FLOWERS

If you would like to remember someone who has passed on Memorial Sunday, May 28th (which is also Pentecost Sunday) by donating \$5.00 for each persons name that you wish to honor, then use the small form found on the table in the gathering area and place that along with the \$5. in the church office. Names will be printed on an insert and flowers will be purchased with the monies for the flower pots at entrances and church grounds.

CPR TRAINING

TUESDAY, MAY 16 6:00-9:00PM

@ BUMC

ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE A

CERTIFICATE AFTER ATTENDING CLASS LED BY

BRECKENRIDGE FIRE CHIEF

MAY MOVIE NITE

Free Family Fun

All Welcome - Community Event

Saturday, May 13th 6:00 PM



Breckenridge United Methodist Church

123 3rd St., Breckenridge

989-842-3632

SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:

Sherri—Mon.-Tues. 9 am—2 pm

Email Address:

stlouisfumc@yahoo.com

Facebook Address:

www.facebook.com/stlouisfumc

THE METHODIST MESSAGE

**“SERVING ONE ANOTHER AND
SHARING GOD’S LOVE”**

First United Methodist Church

116 S. Franklin St.

Saint Louis, MI 48880

Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown—Pastor

Office phone: 989-681-3320

Office Fax: 989-681-5394

11:00 AM worship

**“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open
Doors.”**

****Please notify the church if you
wish to be taken off the mailing list.**

First United Methodist Church
116 S. Franklin St.
Saint Louis, MI 48880
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