

Methodist Message



February 2025

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.” Romans 1: 16

“You know Jesus loves you. He *really* loves you.” Those were the last words of John Daniels. Just seconds after he’d given a homeless man money and shared those words, he was struck by a car and killed. The bulletin for his funeral included these words: “John wanted to figure out how he could reach more people, so on a Sunday afternoon, trying to help a man in need, God gave John a way to reach the world. All of the local TV channels carried the news, and it reached friends, family, and many others all over the country.”

Though John Daniels wasn’t a preacher, he was compelled to tell others about Jesus. So was the Apostle Paul. In Acts 20, Paul expressed his zeal for the gospel in his parting words to the church at Ephesus: “My only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace” (v. 24).

The good news of forgiveness and new life in Jesus is too good not to share with others. Some believers are more skilled at explaining the gospel than others. But with the help of the Holy Spirit, all who’ve experienced its life-changing power can tell their story of God’s love.

During the season of Epiphany we have been sharing in worship each week where we have seen God at work in the past couple of days: “God Moments.” Just a few persons share voluntarily each week. There is usually several seconds of silence though when we come to this time of sharing—this opportunity to be a witness. Why is this? Why are we, who claim to know and follow Jesus so reluctant to witness to God’s power and movement in our lives? Could we challenge ourselves to be more like the Apostle Paul and John Daniels in our witness to others about the love, grace, and forgiveness of God in our lives? If we hesitate or choose to ignore witnessing to family, friends, church family, and strangers we miss the opportunity to proclaim Jesus in our lives. We may miss these “God Moments” and they’ll be gone forever.

The month of February is all about sharing love. Love others enough to share with them God’s amazing love—don’t miss your opportunity. Love yourself enough to let God use you and your experiences to make a difference. Jesus loves you. He *really* loves you. And so do I. *Pastor Billie Lou*

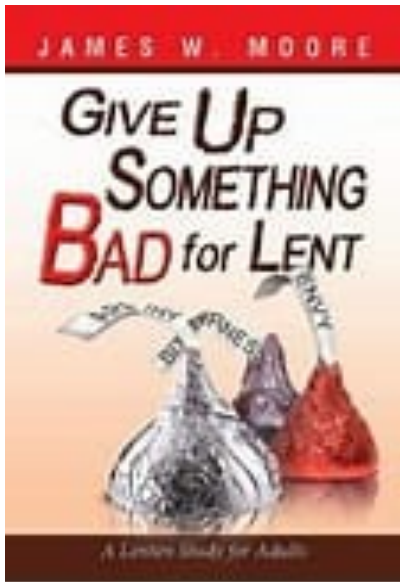
Christians must exhibit the **Fruits of the Spirit**—not all, or all at one time, but throughout our days and lives. If we have asked Jesus to be Lord of our lives, then all Christians will receive one or more of the **Gifts of the Spirit**. Do you know what **Fruits** you are known for? What **Gift(s)** you have received? If not, ask your Christian friends or Pastor to help you discern what God is doing in your life needed for His Kingdom work.

9 FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5)

Love	Faithfulness
Joy	Gentleness
Peace	Self-Control
Patience	
Kindness	
Goodness	

9 GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT (1 Corinthians 12)

Wisdom	Discernment of spirits
Knowledge	Spiritual languages
Faith	Interpretation of spiritual languages (tongues)
Healing	
Miracles	
Prophecy	



A Wednesday afternoon study will be offered from Mar. 12-Apr. 16 from 2-4pm and if enough people sign up there will be an evening study offered (possibly w/ simple supper) Locations will be determined by who signs up. See sign up in gathering area.

LENT BEGINS MARCH 5 ON ASH WEDNESDAY

and concludes Easter Sunday, April 20

The joint Worship Teams have picked the study *Give Up Something Bad for Lent* by Rev. James Moore (UMC) as the theme for **LENT 2025** for both the Sunday sermon series and a mid-week adult study.

Many Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and as a spiritual discipline during the 40 days of Lent. Often things like chocolate, ice cream, shopping, smoking, etc. are given up sacrificially so that we will be able to enjoy them once again after Easter. Rev. Moore challenges us to take it further—to give up something we are better off not doing at all. We will seek God’s help individually, and together, to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive in our lives. Imagine giving up character traits, that we all have, like envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking. Our lives can be so much better—we can be more Christ-like, more like what God needs us and wants us to be!

Fifth Quarter Report

5th Quarter gatherings for the High School students have been a blessing for our church. We have provided a venue and food and the students have shown up consistently for each and every one. Our first one for the year 2025 was the largest that we have had. 62 students came to eat, play games and enjoy each other’s company. We have had great support from the high school administration. Mr. Wilbanks, the high school principal, has attended almost every one of our events and Mr. Slavik, the superintendent, has started to attend also. Mr. Wilbanks reported that the 62 students who attended the last event amounted to 35% of the student body and the heartwarming part of that is that probably 80% of those students said “thank you” as they left.

Game Night in March

The Outreach team hosted a game night on Dec. 31st and had a great turnout. If you enjoyed that one or missed it and want to try it out, we will hold another game night on March 1st. Bring your favorite game or come and learn a new one from 7-10pm. The public is invited along with everyone from both of our congregations. We hope to see you on Sat., March 1st, at 7pm.



Upcoming Events

February Birthdays

2. Wendy Hurst
5. Lacie Shelley
7. Dayne SanMiguel
Olivia Stoneman
10. Greg Shankel
18. Randy Reeves
19. Dave Locke
21. Joleen Lewis
22. Janet Edgar
23. Charlotte Bushre
25. Bob Edgar
27. Allison Shelley
29. Larry Arthur



Tuesday, Feb. 4— ULT @ 6:30PM

Sunday, February 09—Sunday Brunch—following service

Wednesday, February 12—Carrie Knause Circle

@ 9:30 AM and Dorcas Circle @ 1 PM

Thurs, February 13— Young at Heart Always @ noon

Sunday, February 16—Bring a child to Church Sunday

Tuesday, February 25— Free Community Soup Supper @ 4:30

—5:30PM or until it's gone @ SLFUMC

Saturday, March 1— Game Nite @ BUMC 7-10PM



Don't miss this month's free

community soup supper on **Tuesday, February 25th.**

There will be 4 soups to choose from as well as a salad, bread, and dessert. Serving begins at 4:30 at the west entrance. and continues until 5:30 or until the soup is gone. Please note this is a drive thru service and not a sit down meal. We hope to see you! @SLFUMC



A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped take down the greens last month. Thank you all!

Feeling Ill?

If you are not feeling well in any way, **please stay home.** Know that you will be missed, but it is important to remember our bigger picture and goal: to remain open for church and community missions and use. With COVID, flu, and other illnesses upon us, remember that this is not about us as individuals, but it is us as the hands and heart of Christ . This applies to all individuals and groups using the facility.



United Women In Faith Fundraiser Potato Bash



When: **March 16, 2025** after church service

Where: Fellowship Hall @ SLFUMC

Cost: Donation only

All proceeds will go toward mission projects. So, mark your calendars and plan on joining us for a potato bar with all the trimmings!

*****Please note there will not be a Monthly Brunch for the month of March. Instead, we will have the Potato Bash.**

SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:

Nancy—Thursday 8 am—1 pm

Email Address:

breckenridgeumc@yahoo.com

THE METHODIST MESSAGE

“SERVING ONE ANOTHER AND SHARING GOD’S LOVE”

United Methodist Church

125 Third St.

P.O. Box 248

Breckenridge, MI 48615

Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown—Pastor

Office phone: 989-842-3632

9:30 AM worship

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

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

United Methodist Church
125 Third St.
P.O. Box 248
Breckenridge, MI 48615

