

Lyons Muir Church
1074 Olmstead Rd
Muir, MI 48860
P.O. Box 218
Muir, MI 48860-0218

August 2021
Volume 1, Issue 5



August 2021

“Everlasting Arms”

“Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Mark 9: 33-37

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this little snippet from Mark’s gospel we find the disciples jockeying for position -- led astray into hubris and jealousy and pride by the assumption that Jesus is going to become the king of Israel, drive out the Romans, and reestablish the political, economic, and religious dynasty of his ancestor David. But as we know from the rest of the story, this isn’t what Jesus is doing at all. Jesus has come on a specific errand from the heavenly places, sent by the Father, and what concerns him is far more important than a geopolitical nation-state. His concern, as well we know, is the redemption of the Creation from the effects of evil and sin, which is death (John 3 with Romans 6:23).

Attendance:

The average attendance for the month of July was 28.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	Worship on the Lord’s Day, 11
MONDAYS	No regular events
TUESDAYS	Office Hours, 9-12
WEDNESDAYS	Bible Study, 6:30-7:30 Ionia First UMC, Cafe
THURSDAYS	Office Hours, 9-2 Bible Study, 12-1

UPCOMING EVENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
August 8-12, 6-8 PM
BACK TO SCHOOL BASH
August 28, 2021 3-7 PM

And we also know that, by the power of the Spirit of Life (Luke 1:35, Matthew 3:16, Luke 4:16-21), the Father has sent the Son on this errand of salvation out of love (Ephesians 2:4-7). This reminds us of an ancient biblical truth: that God reveals the Divine Power through Love to reassure us that we are not alone in our suffering... lemme say that again -- We are not alone in our suffering... God *feels* our suffering; God *hears* our cries; God's heart is *broken* by our sorrow and despair... (Exodus 3:7-12) When Jesus takes a little child in his arms, he's showing the disciples the heart of God. Jesus wants his disciples to know that the way he's holding that little child is how God holds each and every one of us.

In the course of my work, I have the great privilege of creating space and time for people to speak their wounds and sorrows and griefs out loud. This is where being a pastor and being a follower of Jesus are the same thing. It is in these moments of helping people meet Jesus in their hurt that the work of ministry becomes most meaningful. There are children who are sick, there are people who can find work, there are folks who are all a mess inside and can't reconcile with themselves, there are people who carry around the shame and regret of their choices... And the work of a disciple is not to figure out who will have the most power in the church. Rather, the Jesus of Mark's gospel wants us to understand that our work is to wrap our arms around the vulnerable and the wounded... And at a certain point to realize and confess that we're all vulnerable and wounded. This is a broken world, and we are part of it: our hurts run deep. But there is One who cares, and who invites us to lean on His Everlasting Arms. His name is Jesus, and he has power to save, to heal, to restore, to cleanse, and.. yes! to *love* us beyond our wounds and sorrows and griefs.

Christ wants us to know that there is no glory for him while the Creation wastes away in sin and death. He wants us to know that he won't have heaven without us. He wants us to know that neither our tears nor our hopes are in vain. As the old hymn says...

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessèd peace with my Lord so
 near,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

In sickness and in health, in wealth and in poverty, in sorrow and in joy... go to Jesus as a little child. He will take you up into his arms, and you will feel the warmth of his love wrapping 'round you with the assurance of eternal life. In the quiet, secret places of your heart, wait for the Lord: you will not be disappointed. In the same power of that Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, you will renew your strength.

O gentle Savior,
 Beauty so old and so new,
 you loved us when you first called forth
 the Light,
you loved us when you walked the Galilee;
 O Savior, love us still.

Jonathan



Circles USA, Grand Rapids Chapter

August 15, 2021

Noisy Sunday Offering

Our vision is that everyone has enough money, meaning, and friends to thrive.

A Circles USA chapter gathers people who are motivated to move out of poverty and matches them with middle-income and high-income volunteers who can support and encourage them on their journey.

Through online or in-person training and weekly meetings, participants (called Circles Leaders) build friendships with volunteers (called Allies). Over time, these relationships help families climb out of poverty and achieve financial stability. The opportunities and obstacles families experience are shared with the larger community, so successes can be celebrated and the barriers can be overcome.

Circles USA helps launch new Circles chapters and helps existing chapters expand into multiple locations within a community.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Circles USA began in Ames, Iowa, as the Move the Mountain Leadership Center, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to find long-term solutions for reducing poverty.
- Circles USA works at national and local levels to reduce poverty.
- 43 million Americans live below the poverty level.
- 14.5 million children live in poverty.
- 14.5% of households lack enough to eat.
- While participants are navigating their way out of poverty, their successes and challenges are shared with local community leaders. The barriers that keep people in poverty are identified, discussed, and often resolved.
- Participants achieve a 39% increase in income after six months and a 78% increase in income after 18 months. Participants continue to increase their income even after the 18-month period.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 28th

3 TO 7 PM

JOIN US FOR AN AWESOME DAY OF FAMILY FUN
& HOSPITALITY

WATER SLIDES & SQUIRT GUNS

BOUNDY HOUSE

WATER BALOON TOSS

THREE-LEGGED RACE

LIVE MUSIC

FREE BBQ SERVED @ 5

EVERY KID WHO RSVPs
GETS A NEW BACKPACK AND SUPPLIES!!

THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMILITY FOR OUR KIDS

Studies have consistently found that the root of many relational issues tends to be the absence of humility. Where humility is lacking, selfishness, anxiety, pride, and insecurities abound. Teaching our kids humility from an early age will help them avoid these issues.

Teaching kids to understand their thoughts, longings, desires, and emotions helps them observe why they do the things they do. More importantly, establishing a life or culture of prayer in your home is an excellent starting point to soften the heart and train it toward humility.

Humility in a child's life includes learning to:

- serve others
- listen
- take time for self-reflection
- desire growth
- be honest
- manage emotions
- see life through a lens of *invitations* rather than *inconveniences*
- see endless possibilities to love others rather than criticize
- want the best for others

THE ROOT OF HUMILITY

When you meet a genuinely humble person, you instinctively understand that they care about people around them regardless of race, sex, or socioeconomic status.

Interestingly, the word humility comes from the word *humus*. If you have a garden, you know humus is the part of soil that is necessary for the growth and strengthening of plants. It provides the environment for deep-rooted growth.

James 4:6

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Samuel Served in God's House

Coded Words

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

5 12 9

18 15 2 5

16 18 9 5 19 20

8 1 14 14 1 8

16 18 15 13 9 19 5

What did Samuel do?

8 5 19 5 18 22 5 4 7 15 5



Code key		
A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
19	R 18	

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lyons-Muir Church is called to be God's healing and hope-filled congregation, and to make followers of Jesus Christ for the positive transformation of our community through lives of prayer, love, forgiveness, honesty, acceptance, and trust.



This year we'll have a "slimmed down" version of VBS with a mix of crafts, science, story-telling, music, and –of course–snacks! We're excited to welcome the children of this community to our church once more.

Questions?

Call Barb Davarn:

989-225-3849.

Week of August 8-12, 2021

July Finance Report

Thank you for your ongoing support!!

Revenue \$4,670.45

Disbursements -\$4,464.68

Surplus (Defecit) \$205.77

Year to Date Surplus (Defecit) (\$691.81)

2021 Adopt-A-Highway

This year's last Adopt-A-Highway dates are September 25-October 3.

Our Adopt-A-Highway area runs down M-21 from the Maple River, through Muir, past our church, to Westbrook Road which is three miles. Volunteers are needed to help with the trash pickup, as the volunteers able to help are dwindling. Last year, there were four people to pick up the three miles and having more volunteers will help. If you would like to volunteer for this community service, please contact Barb Davarn at 989-224-3849.