

Coldwater United Methodist Church

May 2023 ~ Newsletter



Pastor's Desk

“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:16-20

In early November of 2022 I received a call I had been waiting on for close to 10 years, The Board of Ordained Ministry had recommended me to be ordained as an Elder in full connection in the UMC. My ordination will happen on June 3rd, and I'm excited. I have found that many people have questions about the ordination process, so I thought I'd describe it and the need for young clergy in our denomination in the newsletter this month.

The Journey towards Ordination is long but here are the high points as told in my narrative. In 2013 I graduated from WMU with a Bachelors of Science. By **1. Earning a Bachelors degree** I met a needed prerequisite for my journey towards ordination. In college I also started an informal but needed step of identifying a calling towards ministry. In college I was greatly involved in the Wesley Foundation at WMU. I led Bible study, played in the praise band, and planned mission trips. My calling was forming, and as I neared graduation I took a job as a Youth Director at Paw Paw UMC to try and figure out what this tug on my heart was. At Paw Paw I took a solid year of prayer, times of fasting, taking time behind the pulpit, all trying to discern if this calling was to be part of my path. As my time concluded there, it became more and more clear that it was. A meeting was scheduled and thus marked another formal step on the ordination path: **2. Receiving a recommendation by the Staff Parish Relations Committee and Approval as Certified Candidate for ministry at the annual charge conference.**

Returning to WMU Wesley to a position as an “Assistant Pastor” I dipped my toes further into the water of ministry and then turned my attention to seminary. Before and throughout seminary I, **3. Met annually with the District Committee on Ministry for check ins and more paperwork.** Simultaneously by applying to Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2016 I started the next phase of the Ordination process, **4. Earning a Masters of Divinity from an approved UMC Seminary.** Seminary provides plenty of challenge, it is not a guitar circle playing Kum-ba-yah as some may think.

The best I can describe it is that it molds you into thinking and learning in a different way. After 3 years of Seminary including serving as a “student pastor” under a UMC Elder in a local church for 2 years, I graduated in 2019. Now the work truly began.

At my first appointment while serving as a Licensed Local Pastor I began writing my ordination papers. This cornerstone of this was a 20 page theological paper where I was asked to answer the “historic questions” of our denominations theology and my personal spin on it. For this submission, I was also tasked with providing an original sermon, Bible study, submit to a background, credit check, physical, and psychological exam. All in told the final packet of papers is close to 40-50 pages. **4. Submitting this packet was a step in itself** and then, after it was reviewed, I was interviewed by the Board of Ordained Ministry. In passing this first interview I began the next step in this process, **5. Serving time as a Provisional Elder**

You can think of a Provisional Elder as a mandatory 3 year probation or review period. Over the course of three years I attended trainings, had mandatory check-ins and at the end of that time was tasked to do even more writing. This time summarizing what 3 years of active full time ministry and self reflection taught me. I received character reviews, letters of reference, more background, credit check, physicals, and psych evaluations. I had to plan and implement a fruitfulness project, detailing how I had organized and led my church towards a ministry goal. In short, I had to rewrite that packet from 3 years prior in light of the lessons I learned in active ministry.

6. Submitting this final packet then set me before the Board or Ordained ministry again for one final interview. At this point A LOT of work has been done and now a group of Elders (Ordained Pastors) and Laity (Local Church members) interviewed me one final time, hopefully. For even at this stage a hopeful pastor could be told “No” or “Wait”. “No” meaning we will never ordained you in the UMC, or “Wait” meaning come back in a year and try it again with some feedback from the board.

7. Upon receiving a Yes from the Board of Ordained ministry I am now recommended to become ordained in the UMC. But even after all this I am not officially Ordained, that will happen June 3rd, at Annual Conference. There, after a vote of approval by the Elders of this conference **8. The Bishop will ordain me as an Elder in Full connection serving the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church.** I will be able to wear a stole (A symbol of being “yoked” to Christ and the Church), be guaranteed an appointment at a higher level of pay in our denomination, be authorized to the sacraments wherever and whenever I feel they are appropriate to administer, be able to be appointed as a District Superintendent, or Bishop, and I will carry this title and responsibilities with me after I retire.

As you know, there are not many of young people in the church nowadays. At 34 I am considered a young adult in the UMC (35 is the cut off, shhhh...don't tell my grey hairs). Weems Jr, and Michel in their book “The Crisis of Younger Clergy” outlines this decline. They report that in 1985 (4 years before I was born) there was 1 UMC Elder under 35 for every 12 churches in the U.S., in 2020 the number was 1 in 41. Young UMC Elders now compose 5-6% of the total number of Elders in the U.S., that number in '85 was 15%. We've witnessed this slow exodus, it seems bleak, but we don't have to accept it. We have work to do. For I don't think the Church is done with it's purpose. The great commission still applies, perhaps now more than ever. I trust that just as I felt this calling there are more young people, people of all ages, coming along feeling it too. Because God is still speaking, and we still have work do to. My calling is to build the Kingdom here with you, so let's do it together. Cool? Cool. :)

Connect with us...

26 Marshall Street
Coldwater, MI 49036
Phone (517) 279-8402

Email: coldwaterum@gmail.com

Website: www.coldwaterum.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/coldwaterum

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRGbDaBqke3ctmHq1ctf37w>

Giving Sundays for 2023

- May 14 Golden Cross Sunday
- Jun 4 Peace with Justice Sunday
- Oct 1 World Communion Sunday
- Nov 26 United Methodist Student Day

***Pastor Scott's office is
open to
walk-ins on Tuesday's
from 9 am—12 pm.
No appointment needed***

Church hours

Service Times

- 9:00 am Classic service
- 9:15 am Children's Sunday school
- 10:30 am Casual service

Church Office Hours

- Monday — Thursday
9:00 am — 3:00 pm

****The Church doors** are scheduled to be open 15 minutes before the start of each service and 15 minutes after the start of each service for safety reasons. Please plan accordingly.

M & M Diner ~ April Menu

- 4-May Beef & Noodles
- 11-May Pork
- 18-May Breakfast for dinner
- 25-May Chicken

One Service Sundays- 10 am

May 28 Special Sunday
Pastor Scott Marsh Ordination Celebration and dinner to follow.

Koinonia Corner



We are starting a new article in our monthly newsletter entitled Koinonia Corner. Koinonia is defined as “Christian fellowship or communion, with God or more commonly, with fellow Christians.” This article is to take a little time to get to know those in our congregation. We intend to include this article every other month.

This month we are starting with long time members Paul & Nora Meredith. It’s always a pleasure to answer the office phone and hear, “Hello. It’s Nora Meredith on this end.” It always brings a smile to my face.

Paul and Nora recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. They met when Nora had just graduated from Ohio State University. She had applied for a position as an extension agent. Paul was on the advisory board for Highland County that was interviewing for the position. When introduced, the committee said to Nora, “This is Paul and he’s not married” causing Paul to turn a little red. The county “ganged up” on them. They continued to run into each other as they served with the 4-H program. Paul and Nora went on to get married having 4 children; 3 boys and 1 girl. Now they have grown their family to 8 grandchildren and 16 great-grand children!

I asked what the best thing about being married has been. Nora answered, “Being in love, wanting to give and go with whatever happened. Working together during problems.” Both have always been very committed to God and spent time praying together. They eventually were called to move to the Coldwater area due to Paul’s job. The year they moved here their daughter, Beth, was to be a sophomore. It was the last Sunday in June of 1974 when they first attended Coldwater UMC. The couple that sat in front of them, turned around to greet them. It turned out the couple’s daughter was the same age as Beth. As luck would have it, the girls had much in common and to this day still remain in contact. Paul and Nora, with the exception of 3 years due to Paul’s job, have remained at Coldwater UMC due to great friends they’ve made and how welcome they feel. The congregation is so supportive and caring.

“What are 3 things that you believe about God?” Without hesitation Nora answered saying, “He is ALWAYS there! He always answers prayer, though maybe not the way you want. He wants us to be a messenger. He is our hope. He gives us peace. He is all consuming.” My final question was, “What advice would you give to the congregation when finding a church?” Answer, “Pray and listen”.

Thank you Paul and Nora for your long time commitment to CUMC and welcoming everyone as they venture through our doors. May God bless you!

Registration for 2023 Summer Church Camp has Begun!



Coldwater UMC is very blessed to have a trust fund gifted to us from the Faulkner Estate that will pay for 100% of church camp fees for children and adults who attend our church. Camping isn't just for school age children. There are also family camps and camps for young children with an adult. With a week of camp costing over \$400, this is a wonderful opportunity for our youth and families!

Copies of camp brochures are on the table outside of Friends Place or you can check out the following websites for camp information and how to sign up:

Michigan Conference Camps: <https://umcamping.org> = Wesley Woods, Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat Center, and Lake Huron Retreat Center. Includes camping programs for elementary, middle school, high school and families

Lake Louise Christian Community: <https://lakelouisecommunity.org> Includes Teddy Bear Camp and camps for elementary, middle school and high school ages

For more information contact:

Ruth Proctor, Endowment Chair: (517) 741-3817 or email:
ruth@accountingtaxpros.com

Small Groups

Prayer Group meets on Mondays at 12:30 pm

New Bible Study Coming Soon...more information to be announced

All God's Children meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please come and find out what we are all about. Please bring a friend.

Notes to the congregation

Dear Congregation, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for praying for my sister, Annette. She was diagnosed with Lymphoma approximately 18 months ago, and has undergone several rounds of Chemo to put it in remission. She completed a Stem Cell transplant this winter, and just received the first all clear. She is still recovering from the transplant and will have frequent monitoring. If you could continue to pray for her, we would greatly appreciate it. The prayers seem to be working! God Bless, Gail Widener

Coldwater UMC, Thank you for your prayers, cards, and help during the service for Rich. The family really appreciates it. Also, thank you for your donations to the church, Sunrise Rotary and Alzheimer's Association. It will be put to a good use. I think of you often. May God bless all of you! Love, Jan Johnson

Dear Coldwater UMC friends, Thank you for you're the beautiful, meaningful card you sent us following our mom/mother-in-law/grammie's passing. Your words and prayers are a reminder that we are surrounded in love and compassion as we grieve. Love, Revs David and Julie and Oliver

Worship Assistants

	7-May	14-May	21-May	28-May
	Communion			SPECIAL ONE SERVICE
Worship Leader 9:00 am	Ruth Proctor	Karen Eyster	Kendra Shook	
Worship Leader 10:30 am	Chuck Lillis	Lana Hunter	Kendra Shook	
Combined Service 10 am				Tony Garn
Worship 1 - 9:00 am	Charlie Putnam	Dick Zeluff		
Worship 2 - 9:00 am	Curt Proctor	Bev Zeluff	Gail Widener	
Worship 1 - 10:30 am				Sherry Dart
Worship 2 - 10:30 am				
Worship Leader 1	Grace Parshall	Sheila Walrack	Judy Elliott	Dot Young
Worship Leader 2	Terry Stewart	Dot Young	Barbara Worden	Judy Elliott
Worship Leader 3	Shirley Easterday	Jill Avery	Sherry Dart	Ann Boltz
Coffee Set up 1	Cheryl Robison	Tom Shenefield		Cindy Stevens &
Coffee Set up 2	Dottie Young	Sharon Shenefield		Eva Rice
Fellowship Clean Up 1	Linda Luce	Tom Shenefield	Rick Furney	Cindy Stevens &
Fellowship Clean Up 2		Sharon Shenefiel	Pat Furney	Eva Rice

This and that

Beginnings Care for Life Center Baby Bottle campaign will take place May 14-June 18. This is an annual fundraiser and supports a wonderful cause. Bottles are provided to collect your change, cash, & checks in for donation.

Chancel Choir practice is on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm

Tommy's House current grocery list is available on the information table outside of Friend's Place. Please take one.

Pastor Scott will lead a Worship Service at Drew's Place the first Tuesday of each month at 2 pm. If anyone from the congregation would like to join, please contact Pastor Scott.

United Women in Faith will be meeting on May 17th at 12 noon.
All ladies of the church are welcome to attend.

It's time to plan our annual Mission Auction and Potato Bar Luncheon. The Mission Team has set a date of Sunday, October 1. Please submit any ideas you may have for donations for the auction. We have had great participation in the past raising many dollars for Missions. Submit your ideas to Michele, in the office, or any of the Mission Team members. ~ Sherry Dart, Linda Luce, Sheila Walrack, Teri Dobson, and Ann Boltz.



A BIG THANK YOU to those that helped prepare the Wesley Woods cabins for this summer's campers! You are all amazing!!

Exciting News....

\$1000 Scholarships are available for up to three adults from our church toward the Holy Land trip.

For more information on the trip and the scholarships, contact Nancy Davis (Memorial Committee). Phone 517-897-4591

This and That

In honor of Mother's Day, May 14th, The Mission Team will be collecting donations for Branch County Child Advocacy Center. It is a child center that is community-based, child-friendly, and multidisciplinary for children and families affected by abuse. If you would like to donate in honor of or in memory of someone for Mother's Day in the amount of \$15, please have it to the office no later than May 9th.

Sunday, May 21 we will be celebrating our graduates. Please let Michele in the office know of anyone, including yourself, that may be graduating with an educational achievement. Please provide name, achievement, location of achievement and any other pertinent information. Please also include a digital photo. Please provide no later than May 16th.

May 6th at 1:00 pm there will be an information meeting discussing a Men's Homeless Shelter in our community.

The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall here at CUMC. Everyone is welcome.

Join Bishop David Bard: HOLY LAND TRIP Nov. 13-22, 2023

Please find a brochure with the detailed information posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex across the Sanctuary.

Two additional Extension Trips available as well: Wonders of Petra and the Dead Sea or Nile Cruise into Cairo.

If you need a brochure, call Nancy Davis. 517-897-4591.

The Mission committee will be collecting donations in honor of Father's Day for the Midwest Distribution Center. The monies will go toward flood buckets for clean-up after disasters. Forms will be available after Mother's Day.

Camp Beloved hosts a week of summer camp for youth in grades 9-12 who are part of the LGBTQ+ community. If you would like to help sponsor a child, please contact Tony Garn or All God's Children members.

We are happy to announce the birth of

Hayden Christine Furney.

She is the first born to Matt & Kimmy Furney and was born on April 29.

Hayden is 6 lb. 11.9 oz and 19.69" long.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Doug Stechschulte
- 3 Dean Walrack
- 4 Bob Miner
- 7 Phyllis Briggs
- 8 Linda Goodale
- 8 Ken Elliott
- 8 Ruth Proctor
- 9 Nora Meredith
- 10 Linda O'Leary
- 12 Emily Parshall
- 12 Michaela Johnson-Gay
- 13 Courtney Meredith
- 13 Paul Meredith
- 13 *Curt & Ruth Proctor*
- 15 Suzanne Haupt Allen
- 15 Dan Satow
- 18 *Ron & Kay Bercaw*
- 19 Linda Turner
- 23 Andrew Robison
- 24 Abigail Robison
- 25 Lana Jacobs
- 25 *Travis & Larisa Vorce*
- 25 *Dr. Dale & Bev Williams*
- 29 Spencer Rodesiler
- 30 *Don & Ann Vrablic*

PRAYER LIST

*Annette
Mel Boltz
Emily Culver
Jack Ferguson
Lisa H.
David & Carol Hindenach
Bente Howe
Jan Johnson
Joe and Family
Cathy Marbaugh
Betty Meulhaus
Cindy Paul
Barb Pluister
Co-worker of Kathy Rockey
Tyler S.
Beau Siler
Jeff Streets
Sue Wassenberg
Ashley Wilcox
Dr. Dale Williams
*Our leaders, our nation, our world
*The leaders within our church, committee
meetings, and groups that gather*

*Please submit your Prayer request's by filling
out the prayer request cards located in the
pews, send an email to the church office or
pastor, or call the office.*

**Please note that due to confidentiality the
church will not publish prayer requests with-
out permission of the individual being added
to the prayer list/chain*



We would like to invite you to a very special day
at Coldwater United Methodist Church

Please join us on Sunday, May 28th at 10:00
as we celebrate the upcoming ordination of
Pastor Scott Marsh

Following the service, we will have a special dinner
in honor of Pastor Scott's achievement.
(Everything is provided)

**RESERVATIONS FOR THE DINNER
ARE REQUIRED**

Please contact the office to make reservations for the
dinner. *(Food is provided-no need to bring anything)*
Contact the office **NO LATER** than **May 18th**. Call 517-
279-8402 or text 517-736-4044. Please provide your
name and number attending, as well as your phone
number.

May 2023



3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9 am Classic Service 9:15 am Children's SS 10:30 am Casual Service	1 12:30 pm Prayer Group 6:30 pm All God's Children	2 9 am Pastor's Open Ofc 2 pm Pastor at Drews	3 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 4 pm M&M Diner 5:30 pm SPRC mtg	4 7 am Rotary 4 pm M&M Diner	5 Church offices are close 6:00 pm Kids Safe Space	6 10 am Worship Team Mtg
7 Communion 9 am Classic Service 9:15 am Children's SS 10:30 am Casual Service	8 11 am Young MI Dance 12:30 Prayer Group 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg	9 9 am Pastor's Open Ofc 10:30 am Missions Mtg	10 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 4 pm M&M Diner	11 7 am Rotary 4 pm M&M Diner	12 Church offices are close 6:00 pm Kids Safe Space	13
14 Mother's Day 9 am Classic Service 9:15 am Children's SS 10:30 am Casual Service	15 12:30 Prayer Group 5:30 pm Care & Outreach	16 9 am Pastor's Open Ofc 7 pm Admin Council Mtg	17 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 7 am Rotary 4 pm M&M Diner	19 Church offices are close 6:00 pm Kids Safe Space	20
21 Graduation Sun 9 am Classic Service 9:15 am Children's SS Blood Pressure Checks 10:30 am Casual Service	22 12:30 Prayer Group	23 9 am Pastor's Open Ofc	24 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 Newsletter Deadline 7 am Rotary 4 pm M&M Diner	26 Church offices are close 6:00 pm Kids Safe Space	27
28 Celebration Pastor Scott Ordination Celebration 10:00 am Special Svc Dinner to follow service Reservations Required	29 Office closed 	30 9 am Pastor's Open Ofc	31	1	2	3
4	5			<h2>Coldwater United Methodist Church</h2> <p>For the most current information view our online church calendar at www.coldwaterum.org</p>		