



*50 Years of Growing a  
Faith*

# Chapel Chimes

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## Pastor's Letter—May 2013

**“What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)**

My dear Chapel Lane family,

At a time in its history when the people of Israel were satisfied with making outward shows of religious devotion in order to gain God's favor, the prophet Micah pronounced that what God desired from them was not outward symbols of religiosity—like burnt offerings, animal sacrifices and oblations—but a relationship steeped in humility and a way of living that revealed the essence of God's character which is indelibly stamped upon us by the Creator's hand.

We know from the Psalmist that justice and mercy are foundational to the character of God: “Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.” (Psalm 89:14) And the prophet Micah urges us to celebrate the Creator's stamp upon our being by giving ourselves over to God, choosing to love our neighbors and to work for justice in the world. According to Micah, no amount of striving for external compliance to religious rules can compensate for a *heart* that is committed to justice and mercy, and a *spirit* that strives to live in communion with God.

As I write this, it is the day after the Boston Marathon bombing and my heart is heavy with the images of lives lost or forever changed. I simply cannot understand the kind of anger and hatred that would cause someone to create an improvised explosive device for the sheer purpose of bringing injury (or death) to their neighbors. There is enough natural tragedy in the world without adding to the mix an ugly dose of intentional, unwarranted, senseless violence. Too often, though, our response to violence is to heap even more violence upon an already wounded and hurting world under the guise of “justice.”

In Micah's day, to “act justly” was to live with a moral sense of obligation, choosing right over wrong—to protect the poor and the innocent, and to work for justice and peace with an even hand. To “love mercy” was to show God's steadfast (*hesed*) love through one's actions, not for the sake of getting noticed or receiving a reward—even a heavenly reward—but because that is what we are designed to do and what God expects us to do. And to “walk humbly” with God was to welcome the providential care of the Lord, depending on God rather than resting solely upon the benefits of our human ability, trusting that God can and God will work God's purposes out in even the most dire of situations.

In light of the tragedy in Boston, I lift up the words of Micah and invite us to consider a response that is as just and merciful as it is humble:

Walking humbly with our Lord, may we pray God's peace upon a people in pain and trust that God will work in the lives of those who have been harmed by this act of violence to bring about comfort, aid, and hope for a new day. May we also give witness to a loving, compassionate God by invoking a call for peace in the face of this violent act.

Acting justly, may we work to support a system where all who have been affected by this tragedy are able to find the resources and the personnel they need to recover from the pain of this event. And may we celebrate and honor those who threw caution to the wind, facing evil squarely in the eye, doing what was

was right, carrying the injured to safety and making certain no one was left unattended. Loving mercy, may we be active participants in God's steadfast love by blanketing our brothers and sisters in Boston with prayer and, as a way of giving honor to the victims of violence, by responding to those who are affected locally by the threat of violence upon their lives in providing a "way forward" that offers hope, security and compassion.

As Micah points out, God does not want us to simply talk the talk of religiosity—God wants us to walk the walk of a faith community committed to the call of God upon our hearts. And what is that call? In the words of another pastor, it is the invitation placed upon our hearts by our Creator to move ourselves *outwardly* by working for justice, *inwardly* by loving mercy, and *upwardly* by walking humbly with our God. With that call in mind, may we respond to our grief with a plan for peace and a choice to love our neighbors with a steadfastness that transcends our anger and looks beyond the differences we see to the unity we share as children of an awesome God who wants nothing more than to be with us in loving relationship.

God bless you, my friends!

*Pastor Rhonda*

### Session Huddle

The session met as a Leader's Huddle on April 9, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.. Each board discussed what they are working on and it was an open forum to exchange ideas. At 7:00 p.m. both the session and all the boards gathered in the Sanctuary for devotions. After the devotions each board held its monthly meeting. The session will gather once again on the fourth Tuesday for its regular stated meeting.

Paul Schmidt, Clerk of Session

### Worship Leaders For May

#### 8:30 a.m. Service

May 5- Bob McGee  
May 12- Shirley McCutchen  
May 19- Susan Gaul  
May 26- One service



### Worship Leaders For May

#### 10:45 a.m. Service

May 5- Duncan Stuart  
May 12- Music Sunday  
May 19- Dave Skiendziel  
May 26- Clark Pashby

### Christian Education

#### Sunday School Scheduling

Confirmation Class and the High School Sunday School Class WILL NOT meet on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> due to the large number of participants who will be needed to prepare for Music Sunday. The preschool and elementary school classes WILL meet. All Sunday morning education classes meet for the final time this year on May 19. The Christian Education programs will suspend for the duration of the summer.

#### Safety Training May 5, 2013, 9:45-10:15 OR 12:00 – 12:30 or June 9, 2013, 10:45-11:15

Do you work with the children or youth of Chapel Lane? Do you want to? All volunteers who work with children and youth are required to attend a brief safety training every few years. Chrissy Westbury will be leading 3 sessions of the Safety Training workshop. Please plan to attend one if you are working with children or youth.

#### Health Kits!

The Youth Group will once again be collecting Personal Health Kits for families in need. There is information and a collecting bin in the office wing corridor, next to Chrissy's office. Please help the Youth with this important mission project!

## Youth Group

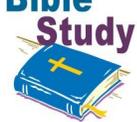
May 11 - Once again we will be heading out to the Mulberry Lane apartment complex to plant flowers. This is a great project to be of service to our community as well as to a church member, AND it's a great fundraiser for CHICAGO! We'll be starting at 9:00 am and working until we're done! There will be lunch provided, and at the end of the afternoon, we will jump in their (indoor) pool to cool off!



## Spring is here!!

The hanging baskets and ferns will be available for pick-up on **Mother's Day, May 12**. For the flats, you will receive a voucher, which you can take to Kutchey's Greenhouse at your convenience and choose the plants you prefer. Thank you for your support of our children and youth as you get your spring/summer flowers.

## Thursday Bible Study



The Thursday group meets at 1:00 p.m. in the parlor and is always open to new folks joining in. Pastor Rhonda facilitates this group. They are currently studying the Pastoral Epistles in May except for May 16th.

## Prayer Concerns for May

### For All Our Military and Law Enforcement Personnel, especially:

All Chaplains; Eric Arrants, Afghanistan, grandson of Vander Woudes; Parker Buell, Seoul, Korea; Tim Dopp, Hawaii; Laura Kraus, granddaughter of Beverly Kraus; Cory King, Fort Knox; Kipp Moe, police officer, son of Jim Moe; Ray Nelson, police officer and Chris Gagne, Secret Service agent, Vicki Eden's brother and nephew; Stephen Papesch, Fort Gordon, Georgia; Dustin Risk, Afghanistan, Susan Hillman's nephew; Chief Martin Thompson, USN, Vickie Irving's son; Ben Weymouth, Vander Woude's grandson in Coast Guard

### For All Missionaries, especially:

Martin family in Alaska; Rev. Sigita and family in Lithuania; Stephanie Starch, home; Medical mission in Haiti; Migrant ministry

**For all those in need of food or shelter in our community and across the world.**

**For all those recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sandy and those assisting in the relief efforts especially the team from Chapel Lane.**

**For all those grieving following the Sandy Hook school shootings.**

**For all those recovering from the effects of tornadoes in Mississippi.**

**For all those grieving and recovering from injuries from the Boston Marathon bombing.**

**For all those grieving and recovering from injuries from the fertilizer plant explosion in Texas.**

## Military Board in the South Wing

If you have a loved one who is currently serving that you would like to honor, please put a picture and brief description of the person in my folder and he or she will be added to our Military Board. God bless our Military!

Vickie Irving



Chapel Lane Church office closed in honor of Memorial Day on Monday, May 27, 2013.



## Core Planning Team Update

Like every living organism, congregations have life cycles. They are born. They grow. They build. And they come to a place of maturity. For churches, maturity is generally perceived as that time in life when ministries and programs are strong, leadership is effective, mission and outreach are at a peak, and finances are healthy. Maturity is a good thing. But maturity brings with it some measure of danger—particularly the danger of complacency in our stability. It feels so good to be us, living in this moment now, with all these good things happening, that we don't want anything to change for fear we'll mess up the equation and never be able to recapture the joy of our golden era. The resulting scenario is that the stability that comes with our maturity morphs into something that looks and feels a lot more like immovability or intractability, at which point congregations do begin to decline.

Of course, maturity doesn't have to lead to decline. It's possible—and preferable—for a mature congregation to begin a new era of *church growth*, effectively returning to an earlier stage in their life cycle. Usually, this new growth occurs as the result of the congregation's leaders intentionally engaging in holy conversations about where God is leading the church, how they will know when they get there, and what to do once they do get there!

Congregations that don't engage in these holy conversations tend to plateau at a place of "maturity" in the life cycle, shifting into maintenance mode, doing things the way they've always been done simply because it's more comfortable to do them that way and because it limits the number of risky or messy surprises. More rigid "mature" congregations do tend to fall into decline. What the church growth movement has helped us to see is that it's a far better choice for leaders to stay engaged in the practice of holy conversation and to make planning for the next phase of church life a vital part of an ongoing process of leadership and ministry than to just stick with a formula that has worked in the past.

Earlier this year, the Session agreed to bring in a consultant to work with a small team of church members in a planning process for Chapel Lane. These individuals were chosen based upon several factors, including such things as their active participation in the life of the church, their unique gifts and skills, their perceived ability to converse openly and transparently with their neighbors, their history in the church, as well as their history in certain areas of church life. The Session would like to thank the following individuals for their willingness to serve on the Core Planning Team: Carol Brown, Lance Cook, Susan Gaul, Travis Irving, Tina Jacobs, Bob McGee, Holly Roenicke, Carl Vander Woude, Renee White, and Alice Wiltse. We invite you to thank them, too.

These ten faithful Christians met with Pastor Rhonda and consultant Sue Waechter on the morning of April 20<sup>th</sup> to begin the process of engaging in "holy conversations" as a way of doing some congregational planning. They will continue to meet over the next several months and will be looking at data, inviting conversation, and seeking discernment. They will compile *internal* data—looking at things like our church's history, demographics, and the faith community "norms and values." They will also be looking at *external* data—demographics of Midland, and perhaps some exploration of the neighborhood and surrounding community. And they will be engaging in the study of God's word as they ask important questions about our mutual "calling" to serve as a people of God.

Neither the Session nor the Planning Team knows where the planning process will lead us—the goals are not set at the start of the process. We trust that the goals and strategies will grow up naturally, as a result of this process. Our hope is that this time of visioning, dreaming and planning will create a willingness on the part of the whole body to go where God is leading us. To that end, you need to know what the Planning Team is up to! So they will keep you posted on their work and they will invite your input—most likely in the form of either group meetings or a congregational survey but also, quite possibly, in the form of interviews. We hope to make available to you both formal and informal opportunities for sharing the story of Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church from your perspective.

The Session would like to ask your support of the Core Planning Team. We invite you to keep them in your prayers as they go about their important work, and urge you to respond to their requests for input with energy, thoughtfulness, and honesty. With your help, and by God's hand, this will be a successful planning process for Chapel Lane and, together, we will embark upon a new phase in our congregational journey.

## Deacons' Doings:

Highlights of the monthly meetings of the Board of Deacons are posted in the Deacons' section of the kiosk. Disbursements reports are included.

## Mission Trip to New York City

Please keep Pastor Rhonda and the contingents from both Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church and Memorial Presbyterian Church in your prayers the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> as they head to Jamaica, Queens on a Mission Trip to do some clean-up following last fall's tremendous "Superstorm." As of this writing, they will be traveling together on a bus provided by Memorial Presbyterian Church and will be staying at a total of three different churches—one en route to the east coast, another in New York, and still another on the way home. If you would care to contribute in some way, please speak to either Pastor Rhonda or Deacon Moderator Dan Veresh. The Midland Sojourners would benefit from gifts of cash to cover the cost of gasoline and meals while traveling, and they would benefit from the gift of yummy snacks—especially a few homemade snacks!!! First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica will be their home base in New York, and the members of that church will provide our travelers with three square meals a day while they are there. But extra provisions of cookies, brownies, soda, Snapple, chips, pretzels, granola bars and fruit would be most welcome. Thank you Chapel Lane for your support!



## Annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive

Our letter carriers will be picking up bags (plastic or paper) and boxes of food and household items for the local food pantries on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Please place your donation by your mailbox on that Saturday morning by 8 a.m.. Thank you for your generous giving. The food will be distributed to the pantries in the area.



## Third Mobile Food Pantry in 2013

The third Mobile Food Pantry of this year will be on Thursday, May 16, 2013, at Trinity Lutheran Church on Jefferson Avenue in Midland. This free food give-away is available to residents of Midland City and County. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the food distribution begins about 11 a.m.. The distribution provides provisions for 300 families. Customers must provide their own transportation. Questions may be directed to Sally Ann Sutton at 835-2428.



**The Pentecost Offering** is the second of four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Gifts to the Pentecost Offering help bring God's love to children at risk, guide young people's growing faith and offer opportunities for young adults to become leaders in the name of Jesus Christ.

The offering is split in the following ways:

40% is kept by local congregations for use on behalf of children at risk.

10% supports General Assembly child advocacy ministries.

25% goes to support ministries with youth aged 12-18.

25% goes to Young Volunteer (YAV) opportunities.

There will be further information in the Sunday bulletins. This offering will be dedicated on May 19<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday. For your use you will find envelopes in pew racks. Thank you from the Board of Deacons for your support.

## Music Musings

Another amazing **CHICAGO TRIP!!** Thank you to the many families that supported another fun YOUTH/kids trip to Chicago where 15 youth and 5 chaperones had many great experiences and made wonderful memories. We appreciate your support and look forward to CHICAGO 2015!

The month of MAY brings **MUSIC SUNDAY** which is going to be a “Congregational Hymn Sing” this year! The choirs finish out the 2012/13 music season with festive hymns, handbells, a brass quartet and more! Bring your Moms to church for Mother’s Day and help us celebrate the gift of music!

On Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, the choir will be on stage at **CARNEGIE HALL!** We ask for your prayers; for safe travel, good health, energy & great weather! We will have many stories to share upon our return!

## Check It Out

A set of 16 cassette tapes, the fully dramatized New Testament (New International Version) has recently been donated to our library. Its title is **The Story: the Word Alive** and it can be found on the shelf at 225 with other Bibles.

Listen to Scripture as you drive, work at your house, enjoy walks and leisure time, or try to memorize favorite verses.

Sue Lane , Librarian



## Book Group

Date changed to Monday, May 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the Grand Traverse Pie Company. The selection is The Year of Living Biblically by A.J. Jacobs.



## Birthdays

### May

1	Jenee Witherspoon	18	Norm Ott
5	Katelyn Greiman	19	Dave Noveroske
9	George Lane	21	Jean Crockett
10	Megan McGee	22	Ernie Caldwell
10	Diane Hobson	23	Alton Adams
10	Margaret Marshall	23	Eugene Downs
14	Marian Ault	25	Martha Atwood
15	Michelle McGee	26	Amy Boulis
16	Florence Goethe		
16	Frank Roenicke		
17	Lois Schmidt		
17	Marie Chapin		



## **Presbyterian Women Monday Evening Circle**

The Monday Evening Circle will meet on Monday, May 6 at 6:30 for a Pot Luck Dinner at the home of Erlene Carmody, 2007 Wilmington. Erlene will provide the main course. We are asked to bring a salad, a vegetable, or a dessert. After the meal we will discuss Lesson #9 of our study. Please let Erlene know if you are coming. 835-7918. See you there.

## **Tuesday Afternoon Circle**

The afternoon ladies circle will have its ninth study of the 2012-2013 season on Tuesday, May 14th at 1:00 p.m. in the church library. Everyone is welcome! Please join us ! Questions? You may call Sally Ann Sutton at 835-2428

**SPRING Clean-up!** The Board of Stewards needs your help cleaning the CLPC building and grounds on **Saturday, May 4, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.** If the weather does not cooperate, the clean-up will take place on Saturday, May 11 at the same time. Activities may include dusting, cleaning, washing windows, reseeding, raking the lawn, yard work, and such. Please come if you can for however long you can, and make our church shine!

Ernie Caldwell, Board of Stewards



## **Order New Hymnals by May 5, 2013!**

Order forms for *Glory to God* are available in the church foyer at the Board of Worship kiosk. To order a copy of the new hymnal, make your check (\$16 per copy) to **Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church** and designate “Gifts & Memorials - Hymnals” in the memo line. Questions? Contact Linda Langrill (989-631-4530) or Joan Frame (989-631-9551).

## **FUN IN FAITH –MAY 10 – WINE TASTING AT THE WHITING FOREST - 7:30 p.m.**

The event for May is Wine Tasting at the Whiting Forest. Gar Winslow from the Eastman Party Store will be our guide for this Wine Tasting Journey. The Whiting Forest has been reserved so that we can enjoy an evening in this wonderful peaceful place. We thank the city for allowing groups like us to be able to use this facility. There will be cheese and crackers as we taste, and dessert to follow.

Come and spend an evening of wine tasting and fellowship with us.

Cost: \$15.00 a person – We need to cover the cost of \$75 for the usage of the building and the wine that is being served.

Please sign your names on the sign-up sheet which is in the foyer. We will collect your \$15.00 that night. See you there.



## **All Board Night and Leaders' Huddle Tuesday, May 14**

Even though Pastor Rhonda will be in New York City the week of our next All Board Night, the Leaders' Huddle and board meetings will go on. So mark the date of the next All Board Night on your calendar: May 14<sup>th</sup>. Leaders' Huddle will begin with dinner at 6 p.m. . All Boards gather in sanctuary for opening devotions at 7 p.m..

## **Sunday, May 19 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. A Visit to India**

Susan Hillman will share a little about her recent 5-1/2 months in India, where she lived and worked in a Jain community and interacted with people of many different faiths or cultural practices and ways of life including Hindu, Jain, Sikh, Muslim, and Christian. She will speak about education in India, cultural practices, rural vs. city life, basics of Hindu, Jain, and Sikh faith traditions, how to put on a sari, how to make a rangoli design, and some of the festivals celebrated. This program will be a joint effort of the Board of Christian Education and Presbyterian Women.

## **Kudos to the Chapel Lane Presbyterian Women's Group!**

A special thanks goes out to the Chapel Lane Presbyterian Women's organization, for the truly wonderful presentation that was recently held on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2013. *What you missed if you didn't attend*, the PW group organized a very interesting program, featuring Jody Hedlund a local Midland, Michigan author in their "spring gathering afternoon tea". Al Adams

## **PHEWA ---- The Presbyterian Church (USA)'s best kept secret!!**

"What does God require of us...to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"  
Micah 6:8

PHEWA stands for Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association. And hopefully PHEWA won't be a secret for long!!

PHEWA seeks to live out Micah 6:8 through volunteer networks that seek to increase our responsiveness to persons excluded or marginalized from the life of the Church and society.

PHEWA is comprised of 10 volunteer networks dedicated to the vision of a welcoming, inclusive and fully accessible Presbyterian Church (USA).

PHEWA is a hybrid organization that is a ministry of the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry at the National PC(USA) and an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit.

PHEWA provides opportunities for membership with all networks or support for an individual network.

For more information, you can take a PHEWA brochure, located in the church narthex. Also, [www.phewacomcommunity.org](http://www.phewacomcommunity.org) and <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa> are two websites that provide the latest news from the PHEWA networks.

Feel free to spread the word and share the secret!!!

Carol Brown

## **Save the Dates:**

**June 16-21, 2013** Wow! Only one more month until **SUMMER CAMP!** There are only a few weeks left to register for camp so invite your friends to camp NOW and get them registered as we know the saying, "The more, the merrier!" Summer Camp 2013 is going to be the best yet! June 16-21. All registration materials can be found on our church website at [www.chapellane.org](http://www.chapellane.org)

## **Friday, June 21 Fun and Faith**

Great Lakes Loons baseball game at 7:05 p.m. with fireworks to follow the game. Details to follow.



## **July 22-26, 2013 Vacation Bible School 2013**

It's time to start thinking about Vacation Bible School again! This year, we will explore Everywhere Fun Fair, Where God's World Comes Together! VBS is only possible through the hard work of a large group of volunteers! Let Chrissy Westbury know if you would like to help out this year.

\*Please save Laughing Cow or Brie circular boxes and bring them in for VBS. We need about 60 of them for a craft!

## Calendar

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