



The LUMinary

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"Our New D.S."

In The United Methodist Church, we are a connectional church. This means that each one of us, all a part of Laingsburg United Methodist Church, are connected to those in other United Methodist Churches. It's a reminder, if you will, that we are stronger together than we are apart. We share resources, ideas, pastors, events, and so much more.

Part of this connectional structure requires that leadership be put into place at different levels of the "connection" so that the whole United Methodist Church works as God would call it to. Here at Laingsburg United Methodist Church, we are a part of a geographical "District" called the "Crossroads District" which consists of a number of churches in and around the greater Flint, MI area. As a district, we are assigned by the bishop a District Superintendent – a pastor – who is tasked with overseeing the ministries of each church in the district.

I share all of this with you in order to say that our district – the Crossroads District – is pleased to welcome our new District Superintendent, Rev. John Hice. I am excited about the leadership that Rev. Hice will bring to our district, as well as the enthusiasm for life-changing ministry that he demonstrates in all that he does. Though it is perhaps a bit unconventional, I thought I'd conclude this article by allowing Rev. Hice to introduce himself with a newsletter article he wrote for the district's newsletter in July.

Blessings and peace from your brother in Christ,
Pastor Brian

What Would You Have Me Say?

39 years I've been doing this and it seems I still haven't figured out the perfect approach to writing my first newsletter article. It's at that time that a new group of people are on my mind, yet still in large measure an unknown. I've visited, but I haven't yet taken up residence. That's soon to come; and I'm well-aware that by the time you get this in your hands I will have transferred the filled moving boxes and rakes wrapped together by duct tape from our old home back there to our new home here. Here: with you.

Do I tell you all about myself? Should you be told what my preferred pass-times are; the names of my family members; and the identity of the schools that saw fit to educate me and confer my degrees? That might be too self-absorbed.

Should I tell you what I know about you: your reputation of courage in the face of a national

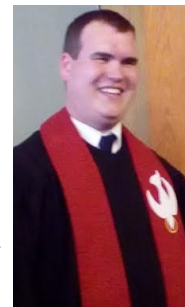
crisis? Should I let you know that I know of your faithfulness in mission, continuously winning Detroit Conference Spotlight Church awards; nearly 100% of our district churches giving to the Imagine No Malaria campaign? Do I tell you about the courage for which you are known and of the life-saving and changing ministries you are known to have accomplished in the face of a national-scale crisis? All that is true and needs to be celebrated to the hilt. But on this page that might just be showing off, that I'd done a little bit of homework.

How about filling this page with a grandiose picture of what I envision Crossroads District to be like in a few years? No; that would just be wrong. Good leaders need to have vision and build consensus – but not at a point before I've even come. Vision-casting calls for doing a lot of listening and then asking a lot of the right questions that can get us all thinking and praying and talking about the direction God is leading us. Then, in the course of our holy conversation, the vision emerges and the leader can name it and move together to realize it. Dr. Sutton has done a remarkable job of generating that kind of vision talk. I know that I am jumping into a conversation that you're already having.

The best I can do is lift up God's blessing. It's so evident that God's blessing is here. Laura and I feel blessed to come and serve you and serve with you. Christ Jesus is doing amazing things through you and that is blessing this community and the world. The blessing is here. That's what I'll claim as I say that we are eager to meet you and come to know you and share our lives with you.

And oh yes: Born in Detroit. Dearborn High School. Michigan State University. Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Laura (m 7/23/77). Carrie (b 1980). James (b 1983). Carving, bicycling, camping, mountain backpacking and hiking, we own a canoe. Laura makes "scrubbies" (crocheted mesh for cleaning vegetables and scrubbing plates). We go for a brisk walk together every day. Laura is really smart.

Carpe diem (seize the day!)
Rev. John H. Hice
Crossroads District Superintendent



Healthy Habit for August

Have a weekly family night.





Did you know.....?

Did you know that LUMC has a History Committee that is alive and well? We will be sharing some interesting and amusing facts about our church in the months to come.



Did you know...?

...that a steeple was placed on the original church, which was built in 1870, for added height? In the 1890's, the steeple was struck by lightning, fell down through the church and set the pew cushions on fire. That steeple was not rebuilt.

August Volunteers:

Coffee Hour:

7: Ed & Diana Carpenter
14: Jeff & Jan Holyfield
21: Troy & Katrina Hill
28: CL Adams & Dave Feight

Head Usher:

Lloyd Plont



5: Harold Walters
5: Jean Smith
6: Rick & Lori Hart
13: Gwen Ginther
18: Randy Meder
18: Ed & Diana Carpenter
19: Madalyn Holyfield
21: Bart & Patty Kjolhede
22: Jan Holyfield
24: Brian Wagner
25: Bart Kjolhede
27: Floyd & Nancy Koerner
27: Duane & Glenna Ginther
27: Elaine Hunt
28: Dan Venier
29: Rayola Lane
29: Matt & Katlyn Sump
30: Bill Dodge

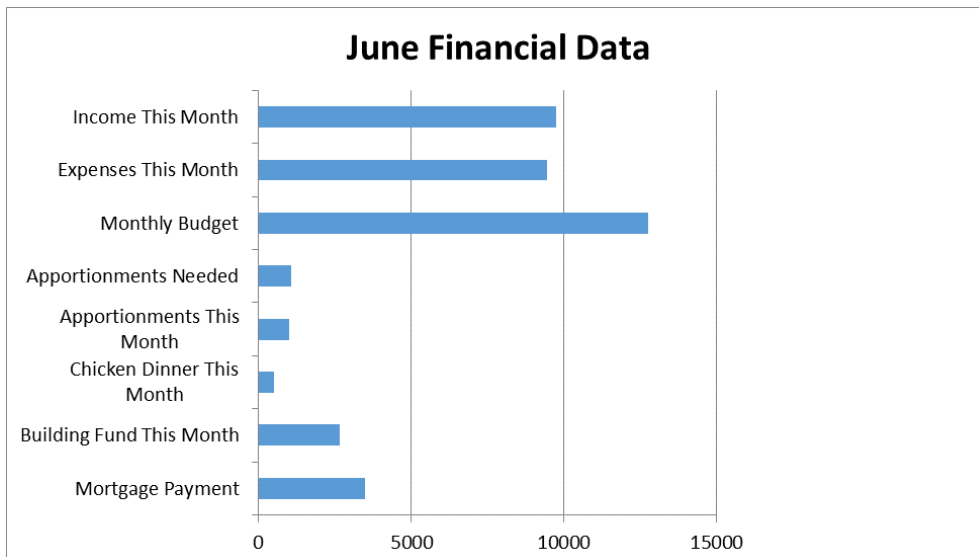
COMMITTEE CORNER

Trustees:

Please call the church office if you are willing to help with some odd jobs around the church. We also have a sign-up sheet for mowing the lawn. It needs to be mowed weekly. Thank you to those who have been mowing. We need mowers for August & September. If you would be willing to sign up for a time slot, be it a week, two weeks, a month, etc., please call the church office.

Finance:

Each month we will be sharing a graph of the previous completed monthly report of our financial standing for that month.



Chicken Dinner August 6





Free Preview Class
Wednesday, September 7
6:30 pm
Laingsburg United Methodist Church

Come and envision a debt-free life!



Letters to God from Kids:

Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.

MOVIE WITH THE PASTOR

**Saturday, August 6
11:00 am — 1:00 pm
at LUMC**

**This month we will be watching
Disney/Pixar's "Brave"
followed by pizza lunch and discussion.
Grades K-5 are welcome, and the
whole event is free. Invite your friends.**



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LAINSBURG, MI 48848

210 N. CRUM ST.

LAINSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**POSTAGE
STAMP
REQUIRED**

What are we up to?

This page will help us share the activities our church families are involved in. If you or your children have something you would like to share, please call or e-mail the church office by the 15th of the month.



Thanks to all those who made VBS 2016 a huge success!