

### **Finances:**

Receipts for October - \$3283.00

Disbursements for October - \$3,943.43

### **December Birthdays:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Megan Leineke

### **December Anniversaries**

27<sup>th</sup> Jon and Rachel Turos

#### **Announcements for the December Newsletter:**

- We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> after coffee time.
- There will be an Advent study starting on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Cadillac UMC. This will continue every Tuesday in December until Christmas.
- Annual Church Conference is at Cadillac UMC on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.
- The singles group meets every third Wednesday of the month at noon and has a potluck together.
- Caroling will be Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Please bring in cookies that day so we can create plates for our shut-ins.
- Christmas Eve service at South will be Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **CADILLAC SOUTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

11800 47 Mile Rd.

Cadillac, MI 49601

(231) 775-3067

[www.scommunityumc.org](http://www.scommunityumc.org)

## **December 2024**

**Worship 9:00 a.m.**

### **Pastor Karen Sorden**

Email: [ksorden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ksorden@sbcglobal.net)

Cell Phone: 231-282-0433

Downtown Cadillac Office Phone: 231-775-5362

Office Hours at Cadillac UMC: Monday-Thursday, 9:30am - 1:00 pm.

Sabbath Day: Friday

#### *Vision Statement*

*We are a family united by God's love: serving, sharing, and growing together.  
It is our mission to call people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

*Friends in Christ,*

*When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Our Advent theme this year, "Close to Home," acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day – our everlasting home – is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.*

*The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God's promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel's news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth's home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another*

*way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth – sacred ground is all around us.*

*Close to Home also names the pain many of us will carry into this season. The holidays can poke at our grief. Some will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. Some do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Some feel alone and isolated at home.*

*This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home – wherever home is found – to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.*

*Faithfully,  
Pastor Karen*