



# GOOD NEWS FROM THE HILL

COURTLAND-OAKFIELD  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Delivering Hope, Healing & Hospitality to our Community

MARCH 2018

Greetings Friends!

My recent bout with the flu gave me opportunity to contemplate the gray, lifeless appearance of winter. Appearance is the key word. From the bed in the room to which I had isolated myself, I could look out the window over the roof to the woods. Nearly every day snowflakes silently floated past the window, covering everything. Instead of feeling lonely, I found myself welcoming the quiet beauty, and the forced rest.

At first, I was frustrated with not being able to bounce back in a day or two, but once I accepted it, I allowed myself to simply sink into the silence. Sitting still is hard for me—too much life to experience, too many people I want to see, too much work to do. Which is why Lent is a time in the Christian year when we're almost forced to stop and look inward. We can ignore it, of course, but those who created the liturgical seasons of the year were wise in making Lent a time of intentional reflection.

The Governance Board has begun to intentionally contemplate who God is calling Courtland Oakfield to be. Our identity seems to be a bit clouded at the moment. We know God has a purpose for us, and we are eager to embrace our calling, but it's unclear exactly who and where to go.

Under those circumstances, the best way to make our way forward is to simply try some things. We may fail. Hopefully, we will! Then we'll know that isn't a direction we should head, at least for now. Or, it may need to be tweaked.

The Board would like to try a mission/outreach project. I used a Habitat Humanity Build with Wyoming Park as an example. We want to hear from you. Is there something that God has put on your heart that you would like to try? Don't be shy if you don't have it all figured out. That's why we do this as a community of disciples. Someone else may have the answers you don't. Please talk to me or one of the Board members if you would like to test out an idea. Nothing is too small or too big.

A group from Wyoming Park has begun meeting with a network of other churches who are looking at becoming Multiethnic churches. We will be meeting once a month for 9 months to learn from studying and from talking to each other. Wyoming Park has two other congregations that rent our building. One is the Zomi Church, a Burmese Seventh Day Adventist Church. The other is Casa de Mi Padre, a Hispanic Pentecostal church. That's seems like the natural place for us to begin, by building relationships with the churches that are right there in our building! It's my hope that Courtland Oakfield might join in building those relationships when it has the opportunity. Sunday morning worship is still the most segregated hour in the U.S. That is not the kingdom Jesus proclaimed has arrived, nor the one Paul speaks of creating, nor the one John sees in his visions in Revelation.

Another way in which each of us can intentionally work at reflecting and building the kingdom of God is to pray. I mentioned in my sermon on Feb 25 a plan for intentional prayer. That plan was as follows:

- Monday:** immediate family
- Tuesday:** extended family and friends
- Wednesday:** individual needs of the church family
- Thursday:** Wyoming Park and her calling
- Friday:** our community and country
- Saturday:** the world

We will only become the community God intends us to be if we are all intentionally praying to hear God's leading for us.

Those are just a couple of thoughts about where it is God may be leading God's church through us. The blue sky, sunshine and warmer weather are signs that spring may not be far away even as the ground is still frozen and the trees are gray and bare. Lent can sometimes feel that way—a barren time before the joy and color of Easter burst upon us. I invite and encourage you to spend time reflecting on ways we can better reflect the kingdom of God, and bring it to be.

*Blessings on the Journey,  
Pastor Kim*

Open hearts,  
open minds,  
open doors.

Sunday Service at 11:00 am  
10295 Myers Lake Ave • Rockford, MI 49341 • 616-866-4298 • [www.coumc.weebly.com](http://www.coumc.weebly.com)

# Troubled Waters

## A Community Worship Service of Listening, Lament, and Hope

Sunday, March 18, 4:00 pm

Blythefield Christian Reformed Church  
6350 Kuttshill Dr NE Rockford 49341  
[www.blythefieldcrc.com](http://www.blythefieldcrc.com)

### Organizing Churches:

North Kent Presbyterian  
River Rock  
First Congregational of Rockford  
Blythefield Christian Reformed



Watching and hearing the deep concern and widespread effects regarding contaminated water in our communities, we are coming together as concerned clergy and churches to gather and bring this troubled matter to God in prayer. By hearing stories of affected persons, hearing the words of Scripture, through song and prayer, we will lament the layers of trouble that are coming to light, and pray together for God's help and healing. All are warmly welcome.



## BOWLING WITH GOD SQUAD

Don and Carol Bailey and the God Squad will be hosting another Rockford Lanes Bowling Event on **Sunday, March 11** and are again inviting all persons and families at Courtland-Oakfield to join them for a time of bowling and fun. Please RSVP to José Bolaños if you are interested so we can get a count!



Next week Sunday God Squad invites all at Courtland-Oakfield to join them after worship to a 3rd year of gathering at Rockford Lanes for bowling and fun. If interested, RSVP to José Bolaños today at church or email José at [jbolanos@gmail.com](mailto:jbolanos@gmail.com). More info will be posted as soon as it is available.

## Happy Birthday!



- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Robert Fuller      | 19 Jerry Avery     |
| 7 Andrea Frandsen    | 21 Elna Johnson    |
| 13 Frank Veley       | 22 Shirley DeYoung |
| 13 Everest Edwardson | 23 Todd Galloway   |
| 14 Heather Kaufmann  | 24 Cory Frandsen   |
| 15 Dave Benaway      | 25 Dianne Kennedy  |
| 17 Linda Stillman    | 29 Rose Sears      |



## Wedding Anniversaries

- 4 Dave & Debbie Flora