



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dec. 2014/Jan./Feb. 2015

Community Gatherings

2nd Saturday of the Month - Brookside United Methodist Church (please bring a passing dish)

Board Meetings

4th Tuesday of the Month
Brookside United Methodist Church – 6:30 PM

2015 Emmaus Walks

Men's Walk – October 1-4, 2015 – Marshall UMC
Women's Walk – October 22-25, 2015 – Marshall UMC

From Our Community Lay Director

BLESSED

Ten years ago I took my Emmaus walk in Albion. When I was done I felt I owed the community for every blessing I received on my walk and started working auxiliary to pay back those blessings.

The problem is every walk I work, be it auxiliary or conference room, I come home after closing feeling like the debt is deeper. The last two walks were no exception.

Listening to the pilgrims at closing, visiting with them at the reunion gatherings, and joining some for a Saturday Bible study I can tell you the testimonies of the pilgrims on the 2014 walks sounded very much like the testimonies of the pilgrims from 2005. The only thing that has changed is the background story the pilgrims came to the walk with.

After the walk, talking to pilgrims and learning how the walk changed their lives – Blessed!

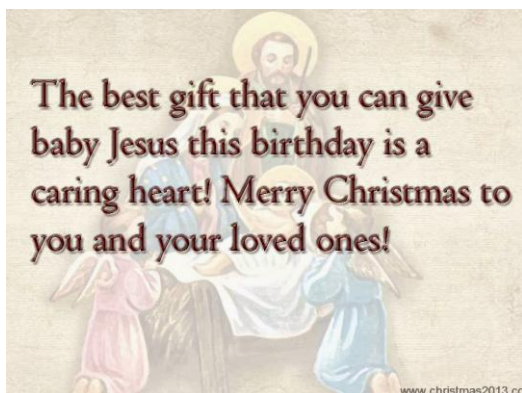
After the walk, hearing from the ladies about how Pastor Craig broke down the Prayer to the Holy Spirit and what it meant to them and getting him to share on his blog – Blessed!

Ladies and gentlemen of the 2014 Jackson Emmaus Walks – thank you. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your walk in a small way. Thank you for trusting your sponsor and this community to take you on your walk. Thank you for showing me the face of Christ in you as I served you and as you shared your testimonies.

Thank you for the blessings!

Randy Herrick
Community Lay Director

If you would like to read Craig's blog on the Prayer to the Holy Spirit follow this link <http://craigladams.com/blog/the-prayer-to-the-holy-spirit/>



From Our Assistant Community Lay Director

It's Thursday night. There may be a feeling of apprehension or uncertainty. We ease into the weekend. Friday morning we begin our ascent. The trail is well laid out. The climb is fairly easy and not too steep. After a day of travel we arrive at Base Camp. We need to rest up because the journey that we are continuing on will become more difficult.

Saturday the trail becomes steeper and not as wide, the walking tends to go slower than the day before. If we were actually climbing a physical mountain we would find that the air is getting thinner. By Saturday night we reach the mountain top. This, of course, means that we are at a turning point.

Something has changed in our lives, we may not realize it until sometime down the road but some will realize it right away. Remember, this is in God's Time. As we look out from this vantage point we look up and see a bright sun, beautiful blue sky, off to the west we see a pristine lake, and as we look farther down the mountain we see the lush green valley. What grows on the mountain top? The time on the mountain top is short; if we do not begin our descent we will not last long because of lack of oxygen.

By Sunday we have made our way back down to base camp. We are tired and drained, not just physically but spiritually and emotionally as well. But this is a good tired. We are now heading back into the valley to grow. The walk is not going to have the same effect on everyone. Some may not truly realize what the walk has meant to them until further down the road.

Although the mountain top experience is not the main purpose of Emmaus it may be a pleasant by product. Emmaus is to help develop Christian Leadership. It is in this valley that not only do we grow our churches and family, but we also grow the Emmaus Community.

We just came off of two fantastic walks. Now is the time to start thinking and praying about filling the next walk. This is a process that cannot begin too early. May God continue to lead each one of us on our fourth day journey.

Jeff Sweet
Assistant Community Lay Director



From Our Community Spiritual Director

I have served 2 years as the Community Spiritual Director and prior to that a partial year as Assistant Community Spiritual Director. The Jackson Area Community Bylaws state:

The Spiritual Director and the Assistant Spiritual Director(s) of the Community shall be selected from qualified members of the Community by the board annually and may be re-elected for a period of two years. (Article 5, Section C)

This means that I need to step down as Community Spiritual Director since I have served my maximum of two consecutive one-year terms.

Serving as your Community Spiritual Director has been a blessing. The blessings have come whenever I see and celebrate the excitement of the pilgrims along with the entire community on how Christ has changed and is transforming their lives and ours.

As Community Spiritual Director it has been a blessing to relate to and receive instruction and prayers from our local Emmaus board and the regional Emmaus staff to help make our Emmaus community here in Jackson a more faithful and effective one! Being a Community Spiritual Director has been meaningful and important to me and I am grateful!

Pastor Jim Hegedus



We will be caroling again this year after the Gathering on December 13th. Half the group will be going to Ridgecrest and the other half to Jackson County Medical Care Facility. I told both facilities to expect us around 7:00. But, I will also let them know it may be as late as 7:30. So, bring your voice and your loving hearts! Also, please bring Christmas cards signed Jackson Area Emmaus.

Bea Furman

Upcoming Events

Leadership Development Workshop

Tentatively, on April 17 and 18, 2015 Jackson Area Emmaus will be hosting the Leadership Development Workshop for Michigan. Friday the 17th is for clergy and Saturday the 18th is for all. The Leadership Workshops are where the board learns what changes are coming to the Emmaus program and gets an opportunity to raise questions and get answers.

The workshop is open to all Emmaus members, not just the board. If you are interested in hearing what the board is hearing from the Upper room, mark your calendar and join us. The event will be at First Presbyterian Church.

April Gathering

Since many of the folks that attend the Leadership workshop stay overnight we are moving our April Gathering to Friday night, April 17, and inviting them to join us. Please mark your calendar and join us for this gathering of folks from all over Michigan. In addition, since the workshop will be at First Presbyterian Church, we will move the gathering there also so the out of town guests do not have to find two churches.

2015 Walks

We have dates and locations for fall walks in 2015. The men's walk will be October 1-4 and the women's walk will be October 22-25. Both walks will be at Marshall United Methodist Church. It is not too early to start signing up pilgrims.

The board has chosen to take the walks to Marshall to attempt to serve a community that is poorly served by both Jackson and Kalamazoo Emmaus communities. Please do not let the distance (it is only 28 miles from the I-94/US 127 interchange) deter you from participating as a sponsor or team member.



Fourth Day Reflections

John 13:31-35

(Given by Pastor Jim Hegedus at the conclusion of the Men's Walk)

Tonight we are all on the same page together. Tonight we are all in our Fourth Day together. This means that we have been empowered by the Spirit to serve a life of discipleship in our local churches, in our families, and in our communities.

What does this mean? First it means to go home and get some rest. Second, it means to thank God and thank your sponsor for this opportunity to be renewed. And third, it means that there is work to be done...

One of my favorite children's books is by Dr. Seuss, *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back*. It starts out this way:

This was no time for play.
This was no time for fun.
This was no time for games.
There was work to be done.
All the deep, deep, deep snow
All that snow had to go.
When our mother went down to the town for the day,
She said, "Somebody has to clean all this away. Somebody,
Somebody has to, you see."
Then she picked out two somebodies: Sally and me.

The goal of Emmaus is not to recreate the Walk in the local church or to recruit people for the next weekend retreat. The goal is to return the spirit of agape, which is also the spirit of Emmaus, to the local church. As pilgrims return from Emmaus, we all need to ask ourselves: How can I help my congregation be intensely loving? How can I help my congregation think of ministry as an act of agape?

Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

Returning to the congregation is above all a matter of returning with a greater awareness of and reliance on God's love.

In the excitement of the Walk to Emmaus, we sometimes forget that the purpose of the event is to develop Christian disciples who will renew local churches. How do pilgrims bring agape to their congregations? To be agents of renewal, they must make God's love tangible. Lawrence Martin compiled a list of **20 Ways to Renew the Church**. I want to share these with you as I close:

1. Ask your pastor how you can be in ministry.
2. Be the friendliest person at a church event.
3. Teach a Sunday school class.
4. Start a prayer group.
5. Sponsor a congregational leader for the next Walk to Emmaus.
6. Begin a Bible study group.
7. Help with the youth group; introduce them to Chrysalis.
8. Sponsor the pastor and his or her spouse on a Walk.
9. Help the church secretary with the newsletter or other duties.
10. Write about the Walk to Emmaus for the church newsletter.
11. Visit the homebound for prayer and fellowship.
12. Visit people in the hospital.
13. Join the women's or men's group in the church. (If your church doesn't have a group, could you start one?)
14. Be a friendly usher at worship.
15. Volunteer to serve on the worship, mission, or evangelism committee or in another area of ministry that interests you.
16. Help with the church library.
17. Serve on the board of trustees; open the church building to the community.
18. Tithe.
19. Send agape to church members in crisis.
20. Start a program to feed the hungry or to shelter the homeless.

Remember: the real Fourth Day of the Walk to Emmaus involves the renewal of your church. There is work to be done!



Emmaus Prayer Chain



FYI: We have an Emmaus Email Prayer Chain. If you have a prayer concern, send it to:
jackson.emmaus.prayer.chain@gmail.com

If you wish to become an Emmaus Prayer Warrior, let us know and we will add you to our group. We believe in the power of prayer.

Don and Jo Jensen



I have had some questions about what it costs to put on a walk verses what we take in. So I thought I would share some numbers and thoughts. First the numbers:

Walks

Income	\$ 2,996.00
	<u>\$ 3,485.00</u>
	\$ 6,481.00

Expenses

Food	\$ 4,042.07
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 709.01
Walk supplies	<u>\$ 592.94</u>
	\$ 5,344.02

As you can see the numbers show we took in more than we spent on direct costs for the walks. But, the numbers are not quite accurate.

Many people donated food for the walks. It is estimated the donations were over \$500 for the women's walk and I did not receive a number for the men's. You could say the donations would show up in both numbers but I doubt we would have seen more income if we had paid for the food.

Thank you for all the donations!

One of the community members paid for the pictures (about \$100 total) and never asked for reimbursement. I don't know how many other expenses were paid by the person running to the store and never being reimbursed, but again, these were expenses that could have been and that likely would not have had a corresponding income. **Again, thank you for the donations!**

The community also had an unexpected expense this year. We had to replace all the team manuals this year, primarily because the manuals changed. But the replacement started because many of them were worn out or missing, which lead us to the discovery that our manuals were out of date. To add to the cost, with two walks in the fall we had to have two sets of manuals. Total cost of all new manuals - \$700.

Again, thank you for all the donations, be they food, supplies or money!

Randy Herrick
Community Lay Director



Called to Serve

(From an article in *In Touch Ministries* magazine)

[Matthew 20:20-28](#)

Christians are identified by a variety of names in the Bible—such as believers, brothers, and saints—but one title we seldom call ourselves is, “servants of Christ.” However, that is exactly what the Lord tells us to be. After His disciples wrangled about who was the greatest, Jesus turned their worldly thinking upside down with a call to become great in the kingdom by being a servant of ALL.

Christ is not just our Savior but also our Lord and Master, and we are to follow His example. Just as He served His Father by caring for people, so we serve our God by lovingly meeting the temporal and spiritual needs of those around us.

Service is essential for spiritual growth. God is always at work in the believer's life, transforming his character into the image of Christ ([Rom. 8:29](#)). A major hindrance in this process is self-centeredness. Serving others is one of the tools that the Lord uses to set us free from the slavery of selfishness.

Service is required to achieve God's purpose for our lives. The Lord has designed specific works for each of us to accomplish in our lifetime ([Eph. 2:10](#)). If we only take in and never give out, we will miss much of what He has planned for us.

Never forget that you have a high calling, which is realized only by lowering yourself to the level of a servant. Look for the opportunities that the Lord will give you today to serve someone. Take your place alongside Christ, who was the ultimate servant of all.

If you would like to serve on the upcoming walks, please let the auxiliary head board member (Deb Spicer) know. Phone numbers and emails change so often that it is difficult to keep up with everyone, so step up and volunteer. The upcoming walks will be October 1-4 and October 22-25, 2015 in Marshall, MI. It seems like so far away, but it will be here before we know it. Mark your calendars now, get yourself signed up to do something so you are in and able to serve when the time arrives. You will be blessed beyond measure!! Thank you for answering the call!! Much love to each of you!!

Sue Miller

FROM OUR DATA MANAGER



John Williams, jwilliams@albion.edu.

Welcome to our new members from walks W-58 and M-58. If I have a valid email address for you, then you received this newsletter as a PDF attachment to an email. Let me know if you would prefer it as a Word file, or not as an attachment, but as text in the body of an email. If I do not have your email address, then for the next year you will be getting a printed version of the newsletter. After the first year, it is \$5 per year to cover the cost of duplicating and postage.

As a member of the Emmaus community, you may access the on-line database for the community, IMS, or Internet Membership System. To access IMS you must have Internet access and use Internet Explorer or Firefox as your browser. The web site is jaec.inetmember.com

Your userid is your email address if IMS knows it. Otherwise, your userid is first name.last name. Note that there is a period between the first and last names.

Everyone's initial password is jaecjaec.

If you cannot sign in, send me an email, and I will reset your userid and password.

In IMS you will be able to access information about the community, your walk, newsletters, update your contact information, and say whether or not it should be visible to other members of the community. You will be able to volunteer for positions in the auxiliary and/or the conference room team and the prayer vigil for upcoming walks.

Once you are signed in, there is a blue bar near the top of the screen with the words: [Home](#) [IMS Common](#) [You Community](#) [Sign Out](#). Putting the mouse on one of these words, except [Home](#) and [Sign Out](#), opens a drop-down list. Clicking on an item in the list opens a web page or an additional navigation bar. The second item in the list under [You](#) takes you to a page where you can change your userid and/or password. The first time you sign in, you will be asked to change your password to something other than the default. I urge you to try IMS to see what it can do for you. Email me if you have problems or questions.



Recently, when I was getting ready to head over for Candlelight for the Men's Walk, I found myself thinking about hearing God's call. I was thinking of Elijah and how he had to endure so much

in fire and earthquake to finally hear the answer in the sweetest whisper from God.

How many of us take the time to really listen? Do we honestly hear His voice calling us to obey? Or do we just hear silence?

Hearing God's voice doesn't mean you actually audibly hear it. His call for your life can come in the form of an email or phone call from a friend, a nudging in your spirit that becomes more and more noticeable as time goes on. We just have to realize when it is prevalent in our lives and follow through.

How many of us think that if we follow His call, it means that people are going to see us at the forefront of everything that is going on in our church? It's better if we're not seen in that way and instead are behind the scenes.

Some can say to me that I'm not one who is behind the scenes enough. It depends on the situation. I actually love it when I can be behind the scenes, like helping Sueny in the kitchen for a walk by cutting up green peppers or, helping out Carolyn in the snack room by doing any number of things.

If you are in a position where you are visible, like I am in most cases, accept that you are doing exactly what God has called you to do. Helping with worship is helping bring joy to God.

So be grateful if you hear God calling you and take up your cross to follow Him. Remember, Christ is counting on you.

Bea Furman.





I want to thank the Lord and give Him praises for the wonderful time on both the Emmaus walks this past October. On the Women's walk, I served as the Auxiliary Head with Steve Monroe as my assistant. Steve and I grew up together; we even took

our family vacations together. After graduation, we went our separate ways. I found Steve through Facebook and we connected after about 20 years of not seeing or talking to each other. In that time, Steve had turned his life over to Christ and I had rededicated my life to Christ.

Well Steve got signed up and went on his walk I believe in 2012 out in Brooklyn. He couldn't stop thanking me for telling him about Emmaus and making sure he got there. He was so excited; he couldn't wait to have his wife go. Steve had a horrible accident and has been through a lot of physical therapy and still has a long road ahead of him, but I praise God for what he has done in Steve's life and now the witness that he is to others everywhere he goes. His wife, Lisa, was actually able to attend this walk as well. I give the Lord thanks for all he has done, is doing, and will do in the future in our lives and on these walks.

On the Men's Walk, I had the privilege to work in the kitchen as the head cook. We had a skeleton crew working in the kitchen, but God sent just enough people and gave us the strength to get the work done. We serve such an awesome and faithful God. I thank the Lord for each one who came out to serve the pilgrims in the kitchen. Some were signed up and some just showed up when they heard that there was a need for help. I pray that you all were blessed in one way or another while you were there with us. I know I was!! You were all such hard working servants from before the rooster crowed to almost time for him to crow again!! Thank you for giving me the strength, encouragement, and drive to keep going when my feet and back just wanted to quit. Much love to you all!!

If you ever thought that these walks don't touch people, you are wrong. It touched me 15 years ago on my walk and all the walks I have had the privilege to serve on since then. I have seen several pilgrims and have heard their testimonies on Sunday evening, and there are hundreds of pilgrims whose lives have been touched. These lives are being touched even with all the changes in Emmaus. We really shouldn't focus on the past and how things used to be; we should be looking at the right now and the future, at how awesome it is, and is going to be for each new group of pilgrims and each new team that is formed by God.

I love our Lord, and I love my church family, and I know you all do too. I love Emmaus and I am passionate about making sure it stays in Jackson, so if you are one of those that are upset with the changes, I ask you to re-evaluate your

thought process on this. If you would come to the board meetings and share your thoughts and ideas, your concerns...then maybe we can shed some light on the situation and come to a resting place. Trust me when I say that even though some changes have occurred, the whole purpose of the walks has not changed at all. These pilgrims are still coming in here on Thursday, and going out on Sunday changed. They are inspired, refreshed, re-energized, rejuvenated, rededicated, alive, on fire, and ready to serve the Lord in more ways than they have before. Emmaus is a wonderful experience; it always has been and always will be.

Sue Miller



SURRENDER

**Born into sin I knew not why,
I lived each day lie to lie;
A path of broken lives I've left,
I knew not why each choice was made.**

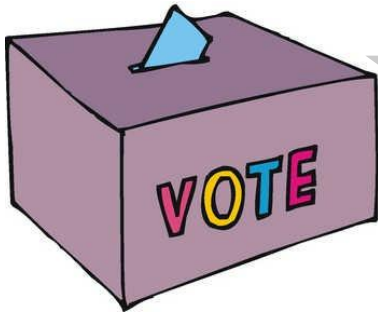
**Undeserving of God's grace,
He showed me mercy in this place;
A simple offer He's always made,
Through Christ, my Lord, my debt is paid.**

**A simple choice I now must make,
complete surrender is what it takes;
I kneel before you covered in sin,
is now when life really begins.**

**Broken and humbled God calls my name,
I know my life won't be the same;
I grasp your hand in glorious praise,
I surrender it all, In God I'm raised.**

**By: Mike Williams
Pilgrim on the Men's Walk
Used with permission**





Emmaus Board Elections

As many of you know we have been trying to hold elections for the board this year. This has proven to be a very daunting process. There is a lot more involved than what I could have imagined. This is a process that we will continue to improve upon.

As of right now there are, and please correct me if I am wrong, five names that have been submitted for non clergy positions. They are Sue Miller, Jim Justin, Arla Leininger, Jean Herrick and Jeff Sweet. There have also been several clergy nominated; they are Pastor Gary Wales (Lawrence Ave UMC in Charlotte), Rev. Greg Wolfe (Napoleon UMC) and Rev. Eric Beck (Jackson First UMC). Clergy have been left off the ballot because they will need to verify that they are willing to serve and meet qualifications set by Emmaus. So Clergy will be asked by the board, but I would like to thank all who gave us names of clergy to contact.

I am planning to have ballots at the December 13th gathering as well as in this newsletter. You may also email them to elections@jacksonemmaus.org or jeffsweet83@yahoo.com. Ballots need to be returned by gathering Dec.13th so we can contact those that are elected. They will begin their term 1st of the year. Please remember to only cast one ballot. As you can see we are running out of time.

I was one who said “Never” and I have been taken to some amazing places. Once again I apologize for any confusion in regards to elections. I feel the process will be improved by the next one. I would like to also thank those who took time out of their busy schedule and served on the nomination committee.

Board positions that are to be filled are: Mailroom/Agape, Newsletter, Registrar, Treasurer, Assistant Community Lay Director and Community Lay Director.

Jeff Sweet
ACLD

BALLOT

Emmaus 2015 Board Candidate Ballot
Election of Candidates Jackson Area Emmaus Board
December 13th Gathering
Brookside United Methodist Church Vandercook Lake

Jackson Area Emmaus Community 2015 Board of Director Candidates

The individuals on the ballot have indicated a willingness to serve Christ by serving on the Board for this Community. There are five openings on the Board for 2015. Please vote for not more than five candidates. If there is more than one Emmaus Community Member in your household, you may photocopy the ballot or use numbers to indicate each member's vote, i.e. 1 for one person's vote and 2 for another person's vote instead of a check mark or an X.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sue Miller | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Justin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arla Leininger | <input type="checkbox"/> Jean Herrick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Sweet | |

You may also vote by stating your choices in an e-mail to elections@jacksonemmaus.org or jeffsweet83@yahoo.com. These should be in no later than Dec. 13th.

REMINDER: VOTE ONLY ONE TIME – EITHER AT THE GATHERING, OR E-MAIL. THANK YOU.



Clothing Order Form







A portion of all proceeds benefit
Jackson Area Emmaus

“Be the hands and feet of Christ to the World”

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Street: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

ITEM DESCRIPTION	COLOR (Circle One)	SIZE (Circle One)	QUANTITY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
 <p>Women's Polo Shirt Material is 65/35</p>	Red	S M L XL		\$19.00	
	Banana	2 XL		\$20.00	
	Black	3 XL		\$22.00	
	Light Blue	4 XL		\$23.00	
 <p>Men's Polo Shirt Material is 65/35</p>	Red	S M L XL		\$19.00	
	Black	2 XL		\$20.00	
	Banana	3 XL		\$22.00	
	Light Blue	4 XL		\$23.00	
 <p>Crewneck Sweatshirt Material is 50/50</p>	Ash Grey	S M L XL		\$18.00	
	Black	2 XL		\$20.00	
	Maroon	3 XL		\$21.00	
	Light Blue	4 XL		\$21.00	
 <p>Hoodies Material is 50/50</p>	Ash Grey	S M L XL		\$21.00	
	Gold	2 XL		\$24.00	
	Black	3 XL		\$25.00	
	Purple	4 XL		\$26.00	
			SUBTOTAL		
<p><i>Add \$6.00 per item shipping for home delivery only. You may also choose to pick up your merchandise.</i></p>			SHIPPING		
			TOTAL DUE		

Please make checks payable to Golden Touch Embroidery.

5620 Juniper Dr. • Jackson, MI 49201 • (517) 764-6250
 Prices include the cost of embroidery and sales tax.
 Thank you for your support of Jackson Area Emmaus.

2014 Jackson Area Emmaus Board of Directors

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cld@jacksonemmaus.org

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jeffsweet83@yahoo.com

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Asst. Spiritual Director:

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ahenson1798@yahoo.com

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(517) 250-4868
spicerdebbie@hotmail.com

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John Williams (517) 629-6768
jwilliams@albion.edu

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Joyce Norman (517) 914-5167
joyce_norman@sbcglobal.net

Kitchen:

Andy Crisenberry (517) 990-0870
(517) 746-6696
shipexpress@gmail.com

Mailroom/Agape:

Jennifer Whitford (517)745-1056
jene@jacksonfirstpres.com

Music:

Bea & Bert Furman (517) 789-6061
healingsongcmt@gmail.com

Newsletter:

Nancy Gage (517) 536-8164
k_gage25@comcast.net

Prayer Vigil:

Kathryn Ames (517) 262-1014
nurseames@hotmail.com

Registrar:

Rick Danks (517) 536-4273
rcdanks@comcast.net

Site Selections/Building/Tear Down:

Butch Walker (517) 416-6058

Sponsor's

Hour/Candlelight/Closing:

Chuck Tuckey (734) 426-5248
CRTuckey@charter.net

Supplies/Trailer Coordinator:

Sue Miller (517) 358-8752
ml1rt1me@hotmail.com

Please use your Board. We are here to serve you. If you are unable to contact a Board member, feel free to email, write, or call me. I'll be glad to help in any way I can.

Randy Herrick, Community Lay Director

