



Send us your prayer requests:

shelbyumc@gmail.com

mearsumc@gmail.com

Prayer List from Mears

Kent Dykema	Clair & Mary Sloan
Ralph Beggs	Cathy Robbins
Marcia Walsworth	Etta Proeber
Phyllis Beggs Arnold	Dolores Bauer
Larry Snider	Ed Reitsma
Melissa Hayden	Jean Weeks
Bonita Whelpley	Kevin Dawson

Prayer List from Shelby

George Kuntz JR	Kay Aebig
Greg Vandyke	Wendy Reid
Jennifer Joneson	Karen Manley
Leota Klapp	Camille Freed
Bob & Lillian Kirk	Patsy Woller
Kent Dykema	

Missions & Ministries

Way of Faith UMC, Romania
 Crystal Valley Care Fund
 Grace Pediatric Hospital, Haiti
 Ganta UM Hospital, Liberia
 Maxine's Closet
 The Ladder
 Love INC
 Mrs. Edy's Orphanage
 Muskegon Rescue Mission
 Reach the Forgotten Ministries
 Hungry for Christ
 Our Missions in Honduras
 The Lost and the Lonely

Our Service Men & Women



Brendan Sawyer
 Dylan Carrico
 Cody Vandyke
 Hunter Danes
 MaKennah & Roman Burillo

"The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him."

Proverbs 23:24

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Mears Service

1990 N. 56th Ave,
Mears 49436

9:15am

WWEE100.5FM

Boxcast.net

Shelby Service

68 E. 3rd St. Shelby,
49455

11:00am

Pastor Bev Williams

269-438-1552

bvwllm526@gmail.com

June 2023



MEARS & SHELBY UNITED MEHTODIST CHURCH

Hear the Good News

"Should I stay or should I go? If I stay there will be trouble, if I go there will be double. Come on and let me know. Should I stay or should I go?"
 This chorus by The Clash, this punk rock group from back in my day echoes through my head whenever someone mentions the word disaffiliation. There it is, I said the "D" word. What will the churches of Mears & Shelby UMC decide? I found out this week that there is, of course, a deadline attached to disaffiliation "over issues www.related to human sexuality". (um-insight.net) This means that if this is the main reason why Mears & Shelby UMC wish to disaffiliate then we need to get some ducks in a row in a timely manner. However, in the Michigan Conference we have been assured that churches may still disaffiliate after the December 31 deadline. So, let's first just take a moment to breathe. Breathe in God's grace and breathe out God's praise....and here we go.

I want to be very clear that this is a decision for the churches of Mears & Shelby to make, not based on what I or any other pastor tells you, but about what you think is the right thing to do. This is an emotionally charged issue.

So here are some facts:

- Shelby & Mears UMC have paid their ministry shares, or will be paying them in full. We do not have to "catch up" to be current. This is an excellent thing.
- Shelby & Mears UMC are debt free! This is an excellent thing, due to your good stewardship!
- The cost to disaffiliate will be somewhere in the 6 figure range based on like sized churches in our area.

It is my intention to give you good information for both, so that you can vote as your hearts and the Holy Spirit guides you to do. When will the vote be? I can't answer that quite yet. It is my intention to plan another Town Hall type meeting this summer so that our "snowbirds" can make sure to have their say and their votes counted. Our next Town Hall meeting needs to be with our District Superintendent and our outgoing DS will not be available at all in the month of June. I am in contact with our incoming DS Jodi Fuller.

What did we discuss at the last Town Hall type meeting? I'm glad that you asked! We decided at that time to wait based on questions which we asked of our DS, who answered in consultation with the Bishop. We are attaching a pdf document and a video along with this newsletter from the Michigan Conference with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

<https://vimeo.com/668610471> (Access the video here)
<https://michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Blessing-One-Another-V01222.pdf>

1. If we stay in the UMC can we make our own statement of faith, outlining what we believe? **The answer was yes, we can make our own statement of faith.**

2. Can we make up a marriage contract that states that we believe that marriage is as defined in the 2016 Book of Discipline which states that "we believe that marriage is between a man and a woman"? Could we be sued for doing so, and would the UMC back us up?

a. The answer was yes we can make up this kind of marriage contract

b. No, we would not be in a position to be sued for doing so.

c. Yes, the UMC would "back us up".

3. If we stay in the UMC would we be respected as a "Traditional" church including not sending us a "drag queen" as a pastor?

a. Yes, your "Traditional" values as a church would be respected and you would receive a pastor that is in line with those values. The SPRC has the right to vote "no" for any pastoral candidate that you feel is not in line with your values. It's always been there. You don't have to just go with who they give you.

4. It was also decided that we will not change our name to "Mears Community Church" at this time – let's hold off on that. If we vote yes to disaffiliate, we may wish to do that in the future. Let's not put the cart before the horse.

5. We are using Easy Tithe and are receiving some tithes through the internet. Perhaps we could encourage persons to increase their tithes to help offset some of the fees that we are incurring.

Folks, let me tell you something. I refuse to believe the insinuation that all of the UMC bishops are liars. I also refuse to believe that all GMC leaders are liars and intentional spreaders of false information. I believe that this is a difference of interpretation. You cannot make this decision based on me. You have to make the decision based on what you believe. That's why we did that study regarding the Apostle's Creed. I want what God decides for both churches.

I am off to Annual Conference this week and I will be back in the office on Wednesday June 7, but I will still be available to reach by cell phone at 269-438-1552, text or email at bvwllm526@gmail.com.

Blessings in Christ,
 Pastor Bev

Mark Your Calendars

Shelby Church:

June 4

Guest Pastor:
Penny Betka
(No Communion)

June 8

VBS Meeting at
11am

June 18

Father's Day

June 27

Missions Meeting
at 1pm

**Winners of the
Pentecost
Challenge:**

Alice Thompson

Diane VanDyke

Abby Vanderzanden

**Thank you to
all who played!**

Michigan Conference with FAQ:

Access the video:

<https://vimeo.com/668610471>

<https://michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Blessing-One-Another-V01222.pdf>

Fun with Hymns

Which is your favorite hymn:

Shall We Gather At the River #710 vs.

Two Fisherman FWS #2101 vs.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

FWS #2191

Submit your answers to:

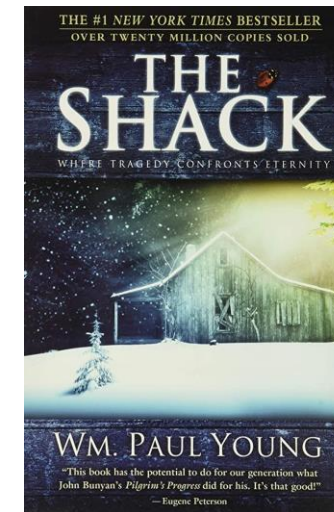
mearsumc@gmail.com

shelbyumc@gmail.com

May's winning Hymn:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #139

FROM OUR LIBRARY



“The Shack by Wm. Paul Young was a New York Times bestseller after it debuted in 2007. If you have never read it...now is the time. Mackenzie Allen Philip’s youngest daughter, Missy has been abducted during a family vacation. Evidence that she may have been murdered is found in an abandoned shack in the Oregon Wilderness. Against his better judgement Mack arrives at the shack on a wintery afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack’s life forever. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, The Shack wrestles with the timeless question: Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain. You’ll want everyone you know to read this book. If you have never read it, now is the time.

Check with Ruth Tobin at Shelby UMC for a copy to check out.

VBS

The Correct dates for Vacation Bible School is Tuesday July 25, Wednesday July 26 and Thursday July 27 from 4p-7pm. We still need volunteers to help so please contact Pastor Bev @ bvwllm526@gmail.com to sign up. Next meeting is Thursday, June 8 at 11am at Shelby UMC.

Mark Your Calendars

Mears Church:

June 4

Guest Pastor:
Pastor Ken
(No Communion)

June 14

Ministry Team
Meeting at 10am

UMW meeting
at 11:30am

June 18

Father's Day

**Winners of the
Pentecost
Challenge:**

Barb Graham

Chris Graham

Marcia Thatcher

**Thank you to
all who played!**

10 Uplifting Quotes for Fathers

1. “A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.” – Billy Graham
2. “No man stands taller than when he stoops to help a child.” – Abraham Lincoln
3. “He adopted a role called ‘Being a Father’ so that his child would have something mythical and infinitely important: a protector.” – Tom Wolfe
4. “The quality of a father can be seen in the goals, dreams, and aspirations he sets not only for himself, but for his family.” – Reed Markham
5. “A father’s smile has been known to light up a child’s entire day.” – Susan Gale
6. “A father doesn’t tell you that he loves you. He shows you.” – Dimitri The Stoneheart
7. “She did not stand alone, but what stood behind her, the most potent moral force in her life, was the love of her father.” – Harper Lee
8. “The greatest mark of a father is how he treats his children when no one is looking” – Dan Pearce
9. “Remember as you go about your day that you may be the only Jesus some of your friends, neighbors, and family will ever see.” – Wanda E. Brunstetter
10. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” – Philippians 4:13

The Reverend Francis Norton woke up Sunday morning and, realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and convinced him to say Mass for him that day. As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. IT WAS A 420-YARD HOLE IN ONE! St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

Daily Bible Reading Plan

<i>Date</i>	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>New Testament</i>	<i>Proverbs</i>
1-Jun	2 Samuel 18:1-19:20	119:152-176	John 20:1-31	16:14-15
2-Jun	2 Samuel 19:11-20:13	120:1-7	John 21:1-25	16:16-17
3-Jun	2 Samuel 20:14-21:22	121:1-8	Acts 1:1-26	16:18
4-Jun	2 Samuel 22:1-23:23	122:1-9	Acts 2:1-47	16:19-20
5-Jun	2 Samuel 23:24-24:25	123:1-4	Acts 3:1-26	16:21-23
6-Jun	1 Kings 1:1-53	124:1-8	Acts 4:1-37	16:24
7-Jun	1 Kings 2:1-3:2	125:1-5	Acts 5:1-42	16:25
8-Jun	1 Kings 3:3-4:34	126:1-6	Acts 6:1-15	16:26-27
9-Jun	1 Kings 5:1-6:38	127:1-5	Acts 7:1-29	16:28-30
10-Jun	1 Kings 7:1-51	128:1-6	Acts 7:30-50	16:31-33
11-Jun	1 Kings 8:1-66	129:1-8	Acts 7:51-8:13	17:01
12-Jun	1 Kings 9:1-10:29	130:1-8	Acts 8:14-40	17:2-3
13-Jun	1 Kings 11:1-12:19	131:1-3	Acts 9:1-25	17:4-5
14-Jun	1 Kings 12:20-13:34	132:1-18	Acts 9:26-43	17:06
15-Jun	1 Kings 14:1-15:24	133:1-3	Acts 10:1-23	17:7-8
16-Jun	1 Kings 15:25-17:24	134:1-3	Acts 10:24-48	17:9-11
17-Jun	1 Kings 18:1-46	135:1-21	Acts 11:1-30	17:12-13
18-Jun	1 Kings 19:1-21	136:1-26	Acts 12:1-23	17:14-15
19-Jun	1 Kings 20:1-21:29	137:1-9	Acts 12:24	17:16
20-Jun	1 Kings 22:1-53	138:1-8	Acts 12:16-41	17:17-18
21-Jun	2 Kings 1:1-2:25	139:1-24	Acts 13:42	17:19-21
22-Jun	2 Kings 3:1-4:17	140:1-13	Acts 14:8-28	17:22
23-Jun	2 Kings 4:18-5:27	141:1-10	Acts 15:1-35	17:23
24-Jun	2 Kings 6:1-7:20	142:1-7	Acts 15:36	17:24-25
25-Jun	2 Kings 8:1-9:13	143:1-12	Acts 16:16-40	17:26
26-Jun	2 Kings 9:14-10:31	144:1-15	Acts 17:1-34	17:27-28
27-Jun	2 Kings 20:32-12:21	145:1-21	Acts 18:1-22	18:01
28-Jun	2 Kings 13:1-14:29	146:1-10	Acts 18:23	18:2-3
29-Jun	2 Kings 15:1-16:20	147:1-20	Acts 19:13-41	18:4-5
30-Jun	2 Kings 17:1-18:12	148:1-14	Acts 20	18:6-7

Faith by the Lake

From Pastor Vaughn Thurston-Cox at Centenary Pentwater UMC:

At Centenary we participate in ministry with Christ to become the breath of God in community. We strive to find new ways to be a part of the world going on around us in order to share the joy we experience in life with God together. But it can be hard to find time to breathe this life in, to tend our hearts in the ways they most need. Or in ways that meet us where we are and not where someone else demands we should be.

I invite you to join us for Centenary's first Faith on the Lake, a Saturday morning of singing, small group workshops, and conversations designed to give you space to explore and grow your faith and your heart. Faith on the Lake will be held Saturday, June 24, from 9:00 to 12:00. Registration isn't required but encouraged. To do so email us at pentwaterumc@gmail.com or call (231)869-5900. You are welcome to join some of us afterward at Tacos for Trails on the Green, which will raise funds for the Pentwater-Hart Trail. Each participant can select two workshops from the follow:

- *The Faith We Sing!* A Workshop about the joy of singing, Why we sing and What we sing about. We will be exploring the topic: How does Singing help us grow in our relationship with our Heavenly Father? This will be led by the lady whose license plate reads, "Sng4Joy." Facilitated by JennyLynn Girvan, retired music teacher passionate about how we will grow our faith in song.
- *The Beatitudes, A Kingdom Manifesto* A reflection on the Beatitudes as a journey into Christlikeness, from poverty in spirit to peacemaking and persecution. Facilitated by retired Vineyard pastor Roy Martens.
- *What's Grace Got to do with Us?* An opportunity to explore more deeply who we, as individuals, believe God is and how that belief shapes our daily living. Facilitated by retired United Methodist Bishop Sharon Rader.
- *Introduction to Healing & Faith* An introduction to our summer small group on physical, mental, and spiritual healing from a faith perspective. Facilitated by Blaine Rader, retired seminary professor and director of various pastoral counseling centers.
- *Theology Done the Pentwater Way* A chance to explore how we at Centenary understand life with God together and live that vision out in Pentwater by loving God, serving others, and welcoming all. Facilitated by Pastor Vaughn Thurston-Cox.