

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2026

From the Desk of the Pastor

“Take wheat and barley, beans and lentils, millet and spelt; put them in a storage jar and use them to make bread for yourself. You are to eat it during the 390 days you lie on your side. Weigh out twenty shekels of food to eat each day and eat it at set times.” - Ezekiel 4:9-10.

We tend to do things without even knowing all the facts. And I have come to the conclusion that even the wisest of us and the most careful have some blind spots that we just can't see. If we could see those areas in our thinking we would (or at least should) take time to work out those things that are not right or that are not working for us. Yet I have seen over and over that some people are very willing to walk into the same wall over and over again expecting different results and only having a new proverbial bruise on the forehead to show for it.

Many times, it is our inadequate understanding of something that creates that blind spot. We, and I definitely include myself in this feel that our current understanding is more than enough to do what we can to get by. Or I have heard the statement lately 'fake it till you make it.' Being used too often. Which means, I know I don't have knowledge I need to get done what I need to do, but I will plough ahead anyway and learn by making the mistakes, I will very likely make.

This maybe an adequate philosophy for the small things in life, but could be costly in ways we just cannot anticipate in more complex issues or skills.

I have also seen other things that get in the way of our success in life. And that is to put our head down and not observe the life that is passing us by. I have heard it often say, that I don't like this element in life so I will just pretend it is not there and move on as though it is not part of my reality. This is very much the first statement I said here, which is the 'blind spots' that I am sure we all have.

Editing things out or ignoring things that say 'dangerous' is in fact increasing our ability to understand our own risk in those areas. Many times, I have heard this said about science in the last few years. But in that same way we tend to do this with the Bible too. We often focus just on our favorite parts or the parts that are popular to read and basically ignoring the rest. I do like this quote from C.S. Lewis from his book of 'Preview of Paradise Lost.'

“The first qualification for judging any piece of workmanship from a corkscrew to a cathedral is to know what it is— what it was intended to do and how it is meant to be used. After that has been discovered the temperance reformer may decide that the corkscrew was made for a bad purpose, and the communist may think the same about the cathedral. But such questions come later. The first thing is to understand the object before you: as long as you think the corkscrew was meant for opening tins or the cathedral for entertaining tourists you can say nothing to the purpose about them.”

Lewis of course goes on and relays this bit of wisdom to Milton's Paradise Lost, but I think that you can see its broader applications with the Bible and many other things.

Tim Mackie is one of my current favorite people to listen too. He is a Biblical Scholar and Communicator about the truths of the Bible. He relates this very thing to his two Sons who were toddlers at one point. And He said when he was going to university for his classes, his sons would explore their garage and backyard and one day the older of the two boys discovered that a claw hammer was perfect for breaking up the soil of the back yard and just us it to dig great mud pits (which that thought was fun, being toddler boys.) That was all the use it had for them until one day Tim got some wood and nails and show his boys the other side of the hammer. He described it as the day a light turned on in their head about the new possibilities of the concept of a hammer.

Unlike a hammer, the Bible is much more complicated on one level, but so full of great things on the other. The trouble is ourselves. We all have a Bible in our possession, I hope! I also hope that it is not just something that we avoid because it has many words or seems too dense to know where to start. It can feel that way. Someone once said that all things point to Christ! If you don't know where to start, avoid the Old Testament, for now. Avoid the letters in the New Testament, for now. And focus on the words of Jesus in the Gospels. Then branch out into the letters of Paul and John. With prayer and guidance, both spiritual and that of a friend, the places to delve into can open up. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to guide us in our understanding of God and his words, not just the Bible, but that too. Pray for understanding and guidance, and you will get it.

If you need a Bible, ask your Pastor! 😊

God's Blessings,

Duane Lindsey

H.E.R.B.I.E Clinic

**For anyone without health insurance
2nd Saturdays, September 12 & October 10
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. More dates will be
published in subsequent newsletters.
Eye examinations and dental care is now
available!**

The college students who have been helping will be leaving to go home at the end of the semester. Volunteers are needed to greet and escort patients through the building and the check in process.

**Please call Dr. Sherry O'Donnell's office
at (269) 408-1777.**



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Cross-Cultural Ministries Donna, TX

Dear Family at New Journey,

Thank you so very much for the \$200.00 offering. We cannot tell you how much it means to us, especially at this time.

We are buying school supplies for our back-to-school event, and ordering for items for our Christmas Caravan this year.

As you know, this has been an extremely difficult spring and summer for us. We've had people help, allowing us not to miss giving out the food to our people.

We love and miss you all, and know that you're in our prayers. Thank you for being so faithful in your prayers.

Your sisters in Christ,

Jennifer and Nancy
Cross-Cultural Ministries



Evy's Closet

Evy's closet continues to stay open every 2nd and 4th Thursday through October 31st. The hours are 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. **We will not be accepting any Fall or Winter clothing due to the abundance we have already.** Volunteers are always needed to help on those Thursdays. The job is simple! You just have to greet our customers, hand out plastic bags and keep a count of the customers served. We always have two helpers so you are not there alone. Help would be greatly appreciated. Syliva Smith is now in charge of managing Evy's Closet. Please contact her at 269-357-9809 to setup times to come in and help some Thursdays.

Misc. Notes

Daily Devotions



Both the Upper Room and Our Daily Bread devotionals are available at the church on the ushers' table in the Narthex.



Mark Your Calendar

>> UPCOMING EVENTS

ATTENTION SINGLE LADIES OF ALL AGES AND CIRCUMSTANCES:

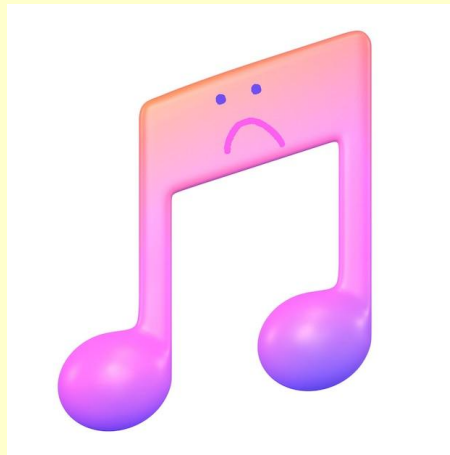
VEP's is an interdenominational fellowship group for single women of any age, circumstance or church in our community. Since none of us are the original members we think the initials stand for **Very Exceptional People**. We meet for lunch one Sunday a month, March to November, at an area restaurant. (Whoever is the hostess picks the restaurant). We will meet September 13th and October 11th.

Haven't seen someone in church in a while? Please contact them to find out how they are doing. We all need to check on our church family members.

ATTENTION JOYFUL RINGERS: we will ring bells on Sunday, September 20th and Sunday, October 11th. Please meet in the choir room at 10:30 a.m. those mornings to practice.

Light House Chorus Presents Inspired by Harmony - Benefit Concert for Area Food Banks. Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. At New Journey United Methodist Church 302 Cedar St, Niles, MI 49120. Adults \$20 Cash or Credit. Children Under 12 Free. Call 269/471-4559 for Advance Tickets.

ON A SAD NOTE,

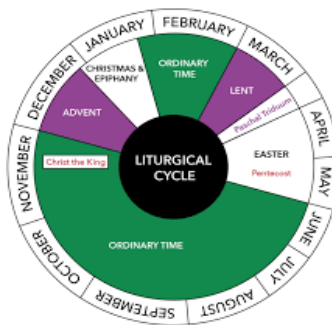


As you all know by now, New Journey formally Wesley United Methodist Church has lost a very devoted member in the passing of Richard “Dick” “Doc” McCreedy on July 21, 2026. If there ever was one, this man was a true patriot. He was the person to call if there need to be a repair to any part of the church. He would do so without asking for anything back. This was his church. Over the years he was on many committees, and chair some. He was in the choir, open and closed the church on Sundays. If there was a meal going on, he would be running the dishwasher. But most of all, if you needed to talk to someone, he would be there to listen and just listen. By now God has opened his arms and taken his soul for everlasting eternity. Even though we lost your body, your spirit will be in this church forever. We all are a little bit better with being a small part of your Christian life. We will miss you, my friend. May God watch over Nancy and her family. ~Anonymous Writer

We also just lost another longtime member in Richard Bookwalter. He was on several committees over the years. And was well known for his love of pickle ball and following his kids and grandkids around for baseball. He will be truly missed.

Special Sundays

September 6	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13	Communion Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Grandparents' Day
September 20	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4	Communion Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost World Communion Sunday
October 11	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 18	Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost Laity Sunday
October 25	Reformation Sunday after Pentecost



LITURGISTS:

Sep 6	Marge Berkheiser
Sep 13	Sue Phillips (Communion)
Sep 20	Dee Rough
Sep 27	Kelsey Jasper
Oct 4	Patricia Ham (Communion)
Oct 11	Steve Morrison
Oct 18	Sharon Stephayn
Oct 25	Starla Miller

Committee Reports

++++++MISSIONS /WORSHIP++++++

*Note: Coins for UMCOR are a separate gift collected every Sunday.

September Mission - Wesley Foundation - We recognize that every person is of sacred worth. We strive to be an authentic, transforming, Christ-centered community that nourishes the mental, emotional, and spiritual growth of all people. We seek to affirm those marginalized because of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, and culture. Following the example of Jesus, we open our doors and hearts to all. At the Wesley Foundation, we offer diverse programming to meet the needs of our community, as we are located at the very heart of Western Michigan University. In addition to groups and events, we partner with other community groups and ministries to offer a wide range of opportunities and gatherings in our building for the students and community in Kalamazoo.

October One Simple Wish - A donation to One Simple Wish spreads love, hope, and joy to children and young adults impacted by foster care and crisis. In 2006, Danielle and Joe Gletow became foster parents, and it changed their lives forever. Watching as an 18-month-old boy nervously entered their home wearing a onesie and an oversized coat after being removed abruptly from his abusive home, Danielle and Joe knew they had to do more. One Simple Wish launched in 2008 as an online giving platform designed to raise awareness and empower everyone to restore hope and happiness to kids and young adults impacted by foster care and crisis throughout the United States.

At onesimplewish.org, we believe that sharing stories, not statistics, is the most effective way to connect communities and change lives.

++++++TRUSTEES++++++

Trustees are asking that if you have borrowed the brown light-weight tables in the past. And still have them, please return them because we are missing about 4 of them. ~Trustees~

++++++FINANCE++++++

With our Pastor going to part-time that should be a savings of about \$17,000 for wages and benefits per year and about \$1,000 for parsonage utilities, maintenance and repairs. Cassopolis church will be responsible for ¼ of monthly utilities and maintenance expenses for the parsonage. This will be a big help in keeping New Journey expenses down.

Sunday giving is still less than needed. The \$25,000 donation from French Paper Foundation was a great help.

We had a 6 month CD mature in August. Interest was \$1,023. \$1,000 of this was used to purchase a new 6 month CD total of \$56,000 at 3.95% interest. The total of the 2 CDs that we have is \$111,000.

Endowments are doing OK. Trustees asked for \$29,500 for a new roof, gutters and soffits on the parsonage. The money was taken out of both endowments. Total value of both endowments as of August 1 is \$829,043.89. Change of Market Value of both endowments went down \$9,989 last month.

We have a new member on the Finance Committee, welcome Dick Ham! As always, if you have any concerns or questions please call me.

God Bless. Bill Carter Endowment Chair 269-240-3637



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH aka United Methodist Women

Thursday July 16th, 2026 a picnic was scheduled to be held by United Women in Faith. It was held IN Suzy Caldwell's house. The heat and humidity were oppressive so we stayed inside. Suzy provided sloppy joes and hotdogs. We had a variety of side dishes including Mac & Cheese, Potato Salad, fruit, and broccoli salad. There was a wide variety of desserts: a Snickers Cake, chocolate chip cookies, ice cream and homemade hot fudge. Everyone enjoyed the chance to socialize. An added bonus was the chance to make handmade cards. Sally Overmeyer provided all the materials and a ton of advice. We had some good laughs over our talent or lack of it. No one complained that there was no business meeting.

There was no meeting held in August. In the past when the group was larger it was the time for district meetings. We no longer have anyone attending these functions. We will resume meeting on Wednesday September 2nd at 1:00 pm. In the Fellowship Hall. The hostess is Elaine, Nancy Calay will do devotions, and Pat Ham will provide treats. The speaker from the Berrien County Emergency Preparedness office. This meeting will be open to the public.

The Thank Offering program from the State will be Wednesday, October 7th at 1:00. Devotions by Sharon, Pam will be the Hostess, and Marge will provide treats. Wednesday November 4, 2026 at noon a Potluck will be in the Fellowship Hall. Sharon will present devotions. The hostess is yet to be determined.

Our Annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday December 2. Pat Ham will do devotions. Pledge cards will be distributed. The luncheon may be held at Brentwood to allow Nancy Boose to attend.

Prayers for our Church Family

Please review the Prayer List, and let us know of any changes!

Cancer Patients

Jennifer Bobelenyi's sister	Lee (<i>Pastor Duane's Uncle</i>)
Owen Bradbury (<i>Kathy Scott's friend's grandchild</i>)	Katlyn (<i>friend of Sandy Hodgman's granddaughter</i>)
Beth (<i>Sue Phillips's friend</i>)	David (<i>Deb Litchfield's father</i>)
Earl Corak (<i>Judy Corak's husband</i>)	Dale (<i>Norma Hall's cousin</i>)
Leona Dixon (<i>Vickie Earl's friend</i>)	Susan Engle (<i>Sue Phillips' friend</i>)
Annette (<i>Kathy Scott's friend</i>)	Alex Nicholson (<i>friend of Susan Severeid</i>)
Chris Hay (<i>Niece to Jane Heflin</i>)	Jeff Steinman (<i>Starla Miller's cousin</i>)
Tom Hall (<i>Norma Hall's Son</i>)	David Litchfield
Sharon Dircks	Ray Boon (<i>Carol Wilfert's brother-in-law</i>)
Vicki Earl	Becky (<i>Kathy Scott's friend</i>)
Patti Kern (<i>Starla Miller's friend</i>)	Katie (<i>Daughter of Pastor Duane's cousin</i>)
Luke Fannon (<i>Brenda, John & Ron's nephew-in-law</i>)	Jack Scott
Janice Bolton (<i>John, Brenda & Ron's sister-in-law</i>)	Pat Chomyn (<i>friend of the Engels</i>)
Richard (<i>Rev. Jane Logston Brother-in-law</i>)	
Jim Dwight & wife Pam Weinstein (<i>friends of Dick & Pat Ham</i>)	

Health Concerns

Jane Heflin	Sean Rice (<i>Starla Miller's nephew</i>)
Howard Engel	Ashley (<i>Judy's Granddaughter</i>)
Bonnie & Don Nie	Ron Hartline
Woody Quick	Don & Nancy Boose
Joan Benjamin	Kimberly (<i>Faith Ernst's daughter</i>)
Wayne Stiles	Mindy Corak
Nancy & Jennifer Watts	Starla Miller
Nancy Comfort	Harry Rough
Taylor Jennings and Nadina	Louise Bookwalter
Anslie Rink-Scott (<i>Ernst's granddaughter</i>)	Bonnie Garwood (<i>Faith Ernst's daughter</i>)
Wendi (<i>Sharon's niece</i>)	Charles Ham (<i>Dick Ham's Brother</i>)

Prayers for Our Shut-ins: Dennis Comfort, Jane Heflin, Jeannine Severeid, & Woody Quick.

Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday to the
following who celebrate
SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Hodgman	September 6
Ken Earl	September 11
Mason Mitchell, Jr.	September 13
Dave Hodgman	September 14
Gayle Bredow	September 26
Richard Ham	September 27
Bonnie Nie	October 3
Ben Caldwell	October 3
William Magrane	October 6
Linda McLane	October 10
Mona Bays	October 12
Sharon Stephayn	October 13
Amy Wade	October 21
Jan Gano	October 30

If your special day is not listed or the date is wrong,
please call the church office and let us know.

New Journey United Methodist Church
302 Cedar Street
Niles, Michigan 49120

September/October 2026

SUNDAY WORSHIP

11:00 AM

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Phone: (269) 683–7250

Pastor Duane Lindsey: padualli@yahoo.com (810) 730-6861

Carla Valeris, Secretary/Treasurer: newjourneyumc2561@gmail.com

Marge Berkheiser, Finance Secretary: financesecretarynjumc@gmail.com

New Journey UMC is a downtown church with a Vision to Breathe In & Breathe Out:

Breathe In – To nurture the spiritual development of persons of all ages through worship, education, and fellowship; and to live the Core Values of Prayer, Faith, Love and Compassion.

Breathe Out – To be in ministry for all persons in our community.