

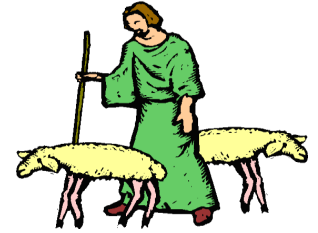


The Shepherd's Journal

FAIRGROVE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

August 2024

"Thoughts From The Shepherds Scroll"



He answered them, 'When it is evening, you say, "It will be fair weather, for the sky is red." And in the morning, "It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening." You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

Matthew 16:2-3

At the time Jesus spoke these words, weather prediction was immediate for many centuries to come. Darkening clouds warned of a storm, and a southern wind called for scorching heat. There were no seven-day forecasts! Technology has brought us far from 'red sky at night, sailors delight!' It seems we have tamed nature, not that we can alter its course, but we can certainly plan around it. However, much of humanity's ability to interpret the signs of the times seems just as elusive today as when Jesus issued his warning.

Our Lord spoke to a crowd with a keen sense of nature but a dull sense of their spiritual situation. They were hardened against seeing that through Jesus, the kingdom of God had arrived and called on them to get their heads out of the clouds and repent, offering them the hope of reconciliation with God and each other. How times have not changed.

I have been unable to shake the sense of the tragedy of division that has intensified within our nation and the world. We will witness four more months of spiteful rhetoric before the election is complete, and I fear for the response it will elicit, no matter who is elected. Are we a nation that has forgotten the battle we are engaged in? The Apostle Paul, who knew the evil of persecution as the persecutor and the persecuted, shed light on the reality of humanity's battle with these words, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12. Could it be feasible that our current self-inflicted rebellion is not founded on social-political disagreement but on a spiritual force of

evil?

As Jesus forewarned the world about the character of our opponent, "He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44 So many of the world have been deceived into believing that Christianity has nothing to offer them. They wander about in the dark, absent of any moral authority above themselves, and feel free to exert their will against any who disagree with them. We are a nation founded on the freedom of speech, and there was a time when we were encouraged to exchange ideas and convictions in the town square of open dialog. The art of productive communication has been reduced to the anonymity of hiding behind a computer screen and subject to cancellation for not conforming to the popular narrative of the moment. The exchange of great truths is held captive by the evil of deceit and censorship.

It was the same world that brought lies and false witness against Jesus, a plan of deceit that gloriously backfired on Satan. The 'signs of the times' are brought into the light by those with eyes that see and ears that hear. An eternal truth made clear by the words of our Lord, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have abundantly." John 10:10

As faithful Christians, we possess abundant life here and now. We share in God's complete love as we nourish one another with words of comfort, peace, and joy. While the world may witness a great storm on the horizon, thanks be to God that we are empowered to see the eternal light which the cares of this world can never obstruct. I need to remember that truth.

God bless you all.

Pastor Jim

Church Office: (989) 693-6564 Office hours: Thursday's 9-1

Secretary: Jo Ann Gray (989) 551-6361

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Pastor's Cell Phone: (248) 881-6294 Pastor's E-mail: jim3956@ymail.com

Pastor's Address: Jim Butler, 2024 Liberty St., PO Box 151, Fairgrove, MI 48733



Bryan Peckham started the meeting at 7:00 pm and Pastor Jim Butler led us in prayer.

Chairperson's Thoughts – Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting.

Secretary's Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report – There is \$22, 127.62 in available funds and \$30,809.75 in designated funds. Some out of the ordinary bills paid Upper Room \$123.07 for 15 copies, Annual Conference quarterly payment \$343.41, health certificate for Labor Day \$84, Post Office Box for the year \$154, Bob Prime mowing \$560, VBS \$327.08. The special offering for water for the fire department was \$257.42.

Finally rid of AT&T with a \$10 credit. Air Advantage is \$45 a month for phone and \$85 for internet.

Education – Fifty large print catechism books were ordered in the amount of \$285.

Missions

God's Country Cooperative Ministries collection will be moved to the third Sunday and the fourth Sunday will be Ethiopian Global Methodist.

Pastor Staff

Living Truth 2 will be here on August 11th. Still in need of pulpit supply for August 18th.

Trustees

The fan switch interrupted the projector switch. New fan switches were purchased and will be installed on Saturday. The projector switch now has a cover. The sound and live streaming system has been installed. There will be a training on Saturday. Jack's Heating will be here on Monday morning to inspect the boiler system.

Pastor's Report

Two more classes of this semester and one paper due August 4th. After a week off, the new semester starts and will end December 4th. Todd Cramer is not available in August. Living Truth requests a love offering only. They provided promotional material.

Agenda of Business

Old Business

The license for Labor Day has been taken care of. A dishwasher was found at Crane's L & M for \$592.99 including installation.

Prices for shirts for the church were presented men's round neck tees are \$12 each up to XL + \$2.50 for XXL. Women's vee neck are \$13.50 and larger sizes have an upcharge. Hats are \$8, A Design was decided on for the shirts and hats also color, royal blue.

Pens were more than \$1 each.

Next meeting will be August 19th. Please note we will be back on Monday night.

Bryan ended the meeting at 7:57 and Galen Smith closed with prayer.

August 25 Offering for Ethiopian Global Methodist Ministry

One Call Tell All: For Prayer request contact Pastor Jim at (248) 881-6294. **To be added or removed** contact the church office at (989) 693-6564 or JoAnn at (989) 551-6361. Include phone numbers and whether to add or remove.

Community Coffee House Everyone is welcome!
Coffee and donuts are available Monday through Friday from 8-9:30 AM. Come enjoy the coffee and conversation.

Community Meal Wednesday, August 14, 5-6:30pm.

Men's Breakfast Saturday, August 3, 17, 31 at 8:30am.

Trustee's Monday, August 19, 6:45pm.

Ad. Council Monday, August 19, 7:00pm.

August Birthdays

2	Jennifer Peckham
11	Nancy Crosby
12	Brady Green
12	Olivia Green
13	Justin Fortune
17	Lynn Prime
18	Frank Spencer
20	Diane Gray
23	Ruth Ann Rayl
25	Donna Barrigar

Anniversaries

1	Robbie & Krystle Prime ☪
3	Larry & Laura Starkey ☪
19	Jacob & Katelyn (Smith) Fair ☪
26	Lee & Rebecca Crosby ☪

* If your birthday or anniversary is inadvertently wrong in some way, or not included, please call the church office (989-693-6564) and leave a message for Jo Ann.

August 2024

Fairgrove Global Methodist Church

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
B= Birthday A=Anniversary					1 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	2 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	3 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
4 Liturgist: Joyce Moore Usher: B. Peckham	5 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	6 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	7 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	8 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	9 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	10	
	Pastor Jim on vacation August 5—19.						
11 Liturgist: Galen S. Usher: B. Peckham Living Truth 2	12 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	13 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	14 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M. Community Meal On Us 5:00—6:30 pm	15 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	16 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	17 Men's Breakfast 8:30am	
B-Nancy Crosby	B-Brady Green B-Olivia Green					B-Lynn Prime	
18 Liturgist: Lynn P. Usher: Bob Prime Bread pan offering	19 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M. Trustees' 6:45 pm Ad Council 7:00 pm A. Jacob & Karelyn (Smith) Fair	20 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	21 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M. B-Ruth Ann Rayl	22 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	23 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	24	
25 Liturgist: Brenda S. Usher: Bob Prime Ethiopia Global Methodist Ministry offering B-Donna Barrigar	26 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M. A-Lee & Rebecca Crosby	27 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	28 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	29 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	30 Community Coffee House 8—9:30 A.M.	31 Men's Breakfast 8:30am	

Fairgrove Global Methodist Church

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fairgroveglobal@gmail.com

September Newsletter deadline is August 29.

Come Join Us—We Would Love To See You

“Spreading God’s Love through Music...”

Living Truth 2

Fairgrove Global Methodist Church

Sunday, August 11, 2024

9:15 AM

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

Fairgrove Global Methodist Church
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Fairgrove, Michigan 48733