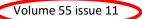
The Soo Chimes



First United Presbyterian Church

November



Pastor's Messa



Can you believe it? December is here!!!! The Holiday Season is when we make special plans with friends and family. It is also a time we as a church family make special plans. The Advent Pastor and Christmas season is the time we celebrate the entrance of our Lord in

flesh. Isaiah gives us a prophecy about this blessed event in Isaiah 7:14. The historical situation takes place in 743 BC. Ahaz, the king of Judah, hears that Syria and the northern kingdom Israel are joining forces against him and his kingdom. He believes Judah is doomed and can't stand against this alliance. God sends word by Isaiah to have faith. Due to Ahaz's lack of faith he does not ask a sign of God even though God implores him to ask. In his consternation over Ahaz's lack of faith, Isaiah delivers the prophecy about God's entrance in the flesh.

(Isa 7:1-14 NIV) "When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it. {2} Now the house of David was told, "Aram has allied itself with Ephraim"; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. {3} Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the agueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field. {4} Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood--because of the fierce anger of Rezin

and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. {5} Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, {6} "Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it." {7} Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "It will not take place, it will not happen, {8} for the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is only Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people. {9} The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son. If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all." {10} Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, {11} "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." {12} But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." {13} Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? {14} Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

Just as families make special plans for celebrations during the Holiday Season, we the church family, make plans to celebrate this most blessed event.

Our Children's Program will be Sunday December 10th and the Christmas Cantata will be Sunday December

17th. Both events will take place during the regular worship service. Our Christmas Eve service is December 24th at Peace in Christ 7pm. -Rev. Mark Gabbard



The Purpose of the First United Presbyterian Church is to: Invite people to know and glorify God Grow together as followers of Christ Serve others through the power of the Holy Spirit

Newsletters are sent by email unless you have made other arrangements.



Jamison Strange, Malin Maas, Annette Mailes, Dolores Leuvoy, Patty Russell, Carolyn Trumble, Erick Florip, Terry Mason, Scott Wallace, Nellie Harrington, Aaron Corbiere, Carolyn Shaw, Della Porter, Gina Gough, Jon Burgess, Kimberly (Swick) Jewell, Jeffrey Burgess, Donna LaPlaunt, Sandy Shaw, Jane Kellan, Patricia Farnhill, Geraldine Carnahan, Lillian Donelson, Dave & Leslie Henderson, Tara Jean Brody, and all members of missionaries, and the U.S. Armed Forces Please keep us up to date on your prayer requests.





To Be Determined

Cheryl Thoresen



Shopping & Bagging

Doris Boogerd



12/26- Doris Boogerd,

Jeanne Shibbley, and

Food Pantry

Distribution

<u>12/12</u>-Mary Frances Morden, Cathy Akre, and Jeanne Shibley

Mary Frances Morden

What does that mean?

Christmas Cantata: A cantata is music composed for one or more voices, with instrumental accompaniment, typically in several movements, and often involving a choir. As the name suggests, a Christmas cantata is a cantata arranged for Christmas. The importance of the feast inspired many composers to write cantatas for the occasion, some designed to be performed in church services, others for concerts or secular celebrations. The Christmas story, telling of music of the angels and suggesting music of the shepherds and cradle song, invited musical treatment.

The Soo Chimes

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N.C.	
Jessica Kuenzer	12/01
Gordon Rohweder	12/01
Leitha Vollick	12/01
Mark Gabbards	12/02
Connie Lawrence	12/02
Delphine Porter	12/03
Wayne Morden	12/06
Sydney Kuenzer	12/09
Audrey Bush	12/11

Nancy Larson 12/1 Anita Weinrick 12/11 12/13 Sawyer Kuenzer Brenda Ransom 12/13 Charmaine Styer 12/18 Sara Hill 12/25 Emma Lussier 12/27 Heidi Hanna 12/28 Mark Michels 12/28 Jo Anne Lussier 12/30

Deacons

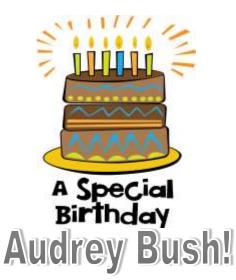
Rides Available

Transportation



Our next PW meeting will be in January





100 Years Young!



Cathy Akre

Cheryl Thoresen If you need a ride to

church, please contact the

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office

Freighter View Assisted Living 605 West Portage Avenue Audrey Bush

Out of Town Della Porter Cross Roads Village 6600 Constitution Blvd Room 605 Portage, MI 49024

At Home Mary Jane Bernier Carolyn Shaw

McKinley Manor 2023 West 4th Avenue Ardith Bawks Barb Kenn Mary Lee Schmidt

> Medi-Lodge 1011 Meridian Jane Kellan





Volume 55, Issue 11

Presbyterian Women

2023 Annual Tea and Bazaar Financial Report

Ticket Sales: \$757 783 Bake Booth Gramma's Attic 756 Jewelry 667 Knit/Kitchen/Crafts 603 Raffle 412 Misc. 177 Total 4,155 Expenses - 394 3,761 Donation 39



\$3,800 Money Towards Missions

Again, thank you one and all for all your time and energy expended on the bazaar. We have received many wonderful comments from outside our church family, We had some last minute changes due to COVID and schedule conflicts but we had a very successful day. Pat yourselves on the back – we did it again!

PW will not be meeting in December but we will be present and working on Cantata luncheon, Christmas Programs, and Christmas Eve Service. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. See you at our January 16, 2024 meeting at 12:00pm.



This is a warm invitation to all the ladies of our church to join Circle 3 at our Christmas Gathering at Applebee's Restaurant on Thursday, December 14th at noon. It's a time of good food, fellowship and fun! This will be a "Dutch treat lunch" and we ask that each one bring a \$10.00 wrapped gift to exchange. This party is a wonderful way to put the "Merry" in Merry Christmas!! Please join us.



Winter is coming and the Deacons are getting ready to help keep the chill away from local area school children by collecting mittens, scarves, and hats on our mitten tree in the Narthex. Gently used coats/outerwear are also welcome for the coat rack we set out during our Food Pantry distribution.

The Deacons are always on the look-out for new members. Seek guidance in prayer as you consider how you will greet the New Year and give some thought to becoming a Deacon. Don't want to commit to a monthly meeting? Be a part of our volunteers who assist with food distribution and other tasks. You don't have to be an "official" Deacon to be a part of the Deacons' mission to help others. May you and yours have a blessed Christmas season filled with joy, peace and love.

-Your Deacons

The Soo Chimes

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1 Galatians 5:1-15 Lamentations 5 Psalm 147 2 Galatians 5:16-26 Ezekiel 1 Psalm 148 3 Galatians 6 Ezekiel 2-3 Psalm 149 4 Ephesians 1 Ezekiel 4-5 Psalm 150 5 Ephesians 2 Ezekiel 6-7 Isaiah 40 6 Ephesians 3 Ezekiel 8-9 Isaiah 41 7 Ephesians 4:1-16 Ezekiel 10-11 Isaiah 42 8 Ephesians 4:17-32 Ezekiel 12-13 Isaiah 43 9 Ephesians 5:1-20 Ezekiel 14-15 Isaiah 44 10 Ephesians 5:21-33 Ezekiel 16 Isaiah 45 11 Ephesians 6 Ezekiel 17 Isaiah 46 12 Philippians 1:1-11 Ezekiel 18 Isaiah 47 13 Philippians 1:12-30 Ezekiel 19 Isaiah 48 14 Philippians 2:1-11 Ezekiel 20 Isaiah 49 Philippians 2:12-30 Ezekiel 21-22 15 Isaiah 50 16 Philippians 3 Ezekiel 23 Isaiah 51 17 Philippians 4 Ezekiel 24 Isaiah 52 18 Colossians 1:1-23 Ezekiel 25-26 Isaiah 53 19 Colossians 1:24-2:19 Ezekiel 27-28 Isaiah 54 Ezekiel 29-30 20 Colossians 2:20-3:17 Isaiah 55 21 Colossians 3:18-4:18 Ezekiel 31-32 Isaiah 56 22 Luke 1:1-25 Ezekiel 33 Isaiah 57 23 Luke 1:26-56 Ezekiel 34 Isaiah 58 24 Luke 1:57-80 Ezekiel 35-36 Isaiah 59 25 Luke 2:1-20 Ezekiel 37 Isaiah 60 26 Luke 2:21-52 Ezekiel 38-39 Isaiah 61 27 Ezekiel 40-41 Luke 3:1-20 Isaiah 62 28 Luke 3:21-38 Ezekiel 42-43 Isaiah 63 29 Luke 4:1-30 Ezekiel 44-45 Isaiah 64 30 Luke 4:31-44 Ezekiel 46-47 Isaiah 65 31 Luke 5:1-26 Ezekiel 48 Isaiah 66





at 9:30am (Except the 2nd Wednesday of the month)

WBS: December Mission

The December mission project is the Salvation Army. They have requested paper products like toilet paper and paper towels, feminine hygiene products, as well as general hygiene products like soap, toothpaste and deodorant.

Thank you for your generous giving through the years, and thank you for your giving this month.

Volume 55, Issue 11



Why is the First United Presbyterian Church of Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan Still Strong?

Greetings. I am continuing with a few articles about some of our "Church Treasures" or those members who have helped keep our congregation vibrant and strong. Last month, Lee Mason recommended that I choose Sara Jones for my next article.

Before I share with you about Sara Jones, I would like to give you a little perspective that my wife and I had from our short time living downstate in Hillsdale, Michigan. We were accustomed to churches being warm, welcoming and friendly like FUPC. We only stayed in the area for a couple of years after having lived and been active church members in Sturgis, Michigan for 20 years. As I recall we visited at least six churches before we found a friendly Presbyterian church in the adjoining town of Jonesville, Michigan.

We have not forgotten that the first person we met at FUPC was Sara Jones. We had not yet passed through the Bingham Street doorway before a warm welcoming smile and handshake came from Sara Jones. This was not a perfunctory greeting...Sara asked about us and told us about herself and the church with ease and charm. Anecdotally, I was so dumbfounded with joy by her welcoming attitude that when Rev. Mark Gabbard walked by wearing his "vestments" I was at a loss for words and referred to his vestments as his "uniform". (Embarrassed!)

When I came to my first Session meeting, she provided me with a huge folder of Session history. So, it was no surprise to me that Sara came to our interview well prepared with three pages of notes on her family history. The level of detail on her ancestors is astounding to me.

So, let's begin. ..April 23, 1945 was the 12th day of Harry S.Truman's presidency following the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and just 15 days before V-E Day. On that day, Soo natives Percy and Eleanor Ruth Sheppard (nee Smart) became parents of Sara Sheppard, their second of four children. Her older sibling is her brother Lorne, and Sara is a tiny bit older than her twin sister Susan, and her sister Marjorie is the youngest. Sara was born at War Memorial Hospital and baptized at our church by Dr. John VerStraate on November 4,1945. Sara's church life as a child was at the Pine Grove Congregational Church but she joined our church on Dec. 17,1961 under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Blackburn.

But before we discuss Sara's church life, let's go back, let's say 186 years. Before Michigan became a state in 1837, it was part of the Northwest Territory. Michigan was the wild frontier for homesteading in the mid-19th century and this was referred to as "Michigan Fever". Sara's great grandparents, Isra-

el Sheppard and his wife Jane Suffee Sheppard (nee Glasford) came here in the 1800's to homestead property on M-129. They had five children. Sara's grandparents were John Wesley Sheppard (6/14/1861 - 1/23/1939) and his wife Alice Alima Beard Sheppard (nee Howard) (7/3/1876 -12/20/1944). They were married 12/28/1903 at Markdale, Ontario, Canada and had 3 children. One child was Sara's father, Percy Sheppard (5/8/1908 - 11/8/1976). Sara's mother was Eleanor Ruth Sheppard (nee Smart) (5/8/1908 - 11/3/2012). Percy and Eleanor were married 6/5/1935. As





The Soo Chimes

mentioned above, Sara is one of their four children.

Growing up on a farm meant daily chores for Sara. This included everything from milking cows at 5:30am to feeding chickens and gathering eggs. In fact, there were **enough eggs being gathered to supply Percy Sheppard's** egg route in town where he delivered them door to door. Summers were filled with haying and harvesting grain. (Knowing nothing about farming, I have to admit that I **asked my wife if there was such a thing as "haying".**)



In 1879, the Ransonville one room schoolhouse was opened on the east side of M-129 just north of M-28 and just south of the Charlotte River crossing in Bruce Township. This is the school that Sara attended from kindergarten through 7th grade. It was heated by a wood stove, with an open pit flowing well nearby. Buckets of water were carried into the school and poured into a crock with a small amount of bleach added to purify the water. Lunch bags were always brought from home and stored in the cloak-room; and then there were the outhouses...of which Sara generously failed to provide any further details.

Sara's mother, Eleanor, was the teacher of 3rd through 7th grade. I think Sara was being circumspect when she opined that this was "not a good plan." The original school still stands but it was converted into a house (8583 S. M-129) when the Bruce Township school was opened in 1958. This is where Sara attended 8th grade. She said it was a sad day when the school was closed.

While growing up, Sara loved horses and her best friend, Carolyn O'Brien. Sara attended Sault Area High School and when she graduated, she attended Davenport College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. When she graduated from Davenport as a legal secretary, she stayed in Grand Rapids for two years working for an attorney. She then moved back to the Soo and went to work for Sault Savings Bank.

On 4/23/67, Sara was married to Burton Jones by Rev. Joseph Blackburn. Burt was a mechanic at Sims Motor Co., which was a car dealership in the Soo. Burt soon became the Service Department Manager for Roe Chevrolet Motors (located where Domino's Pizza now resides) and stayed with the company as they changed over to Sadler Motors and moved out to S. Mackinac Trail. He retired from there. Sara stayed at Sault Savings Bank (now Huntington Bank) until the birth of her first daughter Debra. Debra now lives in Troy, Michigan with her husband, Jeffrey Ormond, and their two children, Jared and Paige.

When Burt and Sara had their second daughter, Jackie, they had a house built on Six Mile Road. Daughter Jackie and her husband, Kevin, live here in the Soo and are involved FUPC members. Burt and Sara lived on Six Mile from 1974 until 2013 when they moved back in to town. Burt passed away 11/5/2020.

Sara Jones is part of the Silent Generation, also known as the Traditionalist Generation, and is an invaluable Treasure at FUPC. She taught Sunday School for 20 years, has helped with many church programs, and was a member of Session, on and off, from 1981 through 2020. In spite of her pride in her family and ancestry, Sara is modest and not self-aggrandizing. Please approach her and thank her for sharing her gifts with our congregation; we are fortunate that she continues to share those gifts with us. When I asked Sara who I should interview for our January 2024 Chimes, she unequivocally told me: Kay Boyne.

Thank you. Tom Corbin



































































Greetings. Our articles about our "Church Treasures" telling about those members who have helped keep our congregation vibrant and strong through the years have been well received. Last month, Lee Mason was our subject and this month our subject is Sara Jones. I spoke to the Session and suggested that it would be nice to recognize some new members to our church as well. The Session gave me the go ahead to do so, and for our first new "Church Gems" I have spoken with Stephen (Steve) and Jessica (Jess) Carlson.

Please rest assured that all of our brothers and sisters in Christ are valuable to our congregation. It takes me and our very busy Administrative Assistant, Nicole McKelvie, considerable time to interview, write and publish these articles and there is no intention to make anyone feel left out. (For example: I personally have not yet met Audrey Bush who resides in the Freighter View Assisted Living facility but I am looking forward to going to meet her.)



May 10, 1982 was the day the British HMS Sheffield and Argentinian ARA Narwal both foundered and sank in the South Atlantic ocean during the Falkland Islands War. In Kansas City, Missouri (go Chiefs!) the Carlson family presented Stephen Carlson to the world. His father was a pediatrician and his mother was a High School English teacher. Steve says his late father was also a brilliant theologian and perhaps should have pursued the ministry. Steve says his mother stayed at home while he and **his older sister, Kim, were growing up. Steve's mother still lives in Iowa. The Carlsons** moved to Fort Dodge, Iowa in 1986 and then to Dubuque, Iowa in 1992. They attended Westminster Presbyterian Church and Steve and sister Kim completed their schooling there. In 2000, Steve followed his sister to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and graduated in 2004 with Nursing and Political Science degrees. Steve was given a position as a Registered Nurse in vascular surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

January 13, 1987 was the day the Manhattan federal court concluded the famous Mafia Commission Case and sentenced seven New York area crime families to hundred-year prison terms while 2500 miles west, in Phoenix, Arizona, the Pace family (long-time Soo residents) gave birth to Jessica Pace. The Pace family, including Jessica, and her brothers, Gene and Tim, moved back to the Soo shortly after her birth. Jessica family has a long history with the Algonquin Methodist Church and it is built on land that was donated by Jessica's maternal greatgrandfather (owner of Fowler's General Store). Her maternal grandmother is Janice Wilson who continues to be a faithful member of the Algonquin Methodist Church.

Although her parents were both originally from the Soo, Jessica's father had family in the Phoenix area and he moved to Arizona when he graduated high school. In Arizona, her father's claim to fame was excavating swimming pools for the "stars" (including rock star Alice Cooper's guitar-shaped pool). Jessica came back to the Soo to attend Lake Superior State University where she graduated with a nursing degree in 2009. From there, she moved to Marquette, MI and worked in the Hospital Emergency Room for a year. She then moved to Rochester, MN to work in the solid organ transplant

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The Soo Chimes

Intensive Care Unit at Mayo Clinic.

Steve and Jess Carlson are Generation Y (also called millennials) and they met at a little Irish Pub named Dooley's just a short walk from the Mayo Clinic in downtown Rochester, MN. Steve was enchanted that night and told Jessica's friend Callie (Jim Mackie's daughter) that he was going to marry Jessica. Steve chased her for seven months until Jessica "caught him" and they were engaged. On a very hot day in the Soo, August 4, 2012 (they were told it was 97 degrees) Steve and Jessica got married at Central United Methodist Church. In 2012, Steve finished his Masters Degree in Nursing and his MBA and in 2013 they moved to La Crosse, WI. Steve became the Inpatient Surgical Services Director for Mayo Clinic's southwest Wisconsin hub – Franciscan Healthcare. There, Jessica started school to become a CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist).

On February 24, 2014, the Carlsons were blessed with the birth of Katherine (Kate). When Jess completed her CRNA schooling, she took a trip up to the Soo, where she was promptly offered a position at War Memorial Hospital. The Carlsons came back to the Soo in September 2017 and were blessed with the birth of Micah on October 23, 2017.

During the years of intense schooling, studying, working weekends, raising young children and establishing careers, the Carlsons were not deeply involved in their church lives. But when they moved to La Crosse, WI they started attending First Presbyterian Church. They both felt a deep sense of belonging and family there and fell in love with their church family. Steve became an elder and got involved with the Youth Group. It was difficult for them to leave that church when they moved back to the Soo. Once they settled in the Soo, it took some time to get involved again but they eventually found their way to our congregation.



Anecdotally, Steve shared that his deep loyalty to the Kansas

City Chiefs was sorely tried and he "almost quit coming to this church when Mark Gabbard wore that ugly Denver Broncos tie." Steve and Jess prayerfully recovered from that crisis, and are both happy to have found a church home here. They are both involved in our church and share their talents. Steve is an Elder on Session and Jess became a Trustee. (Steve says that for Jess, that is "a HUGE deal!").

In his free time, Steve loves to golf and does so whenever possible. Frequently, he takes the kids along and they have learned to love it as well (Micah more so than Kate). The family enjoys camping, gardening, and really almost anything outdoors. Micah really enjoys hockey and Kate loves basketball and swimming. Jess and Steve enjoy traveling and **sharing a glass of wine after a hard day's work, and, lest we forget, the family also includes an energetic 3**-year-old Goldendoodle named Lenny. Thankfully, Lenny is starting to calm down!

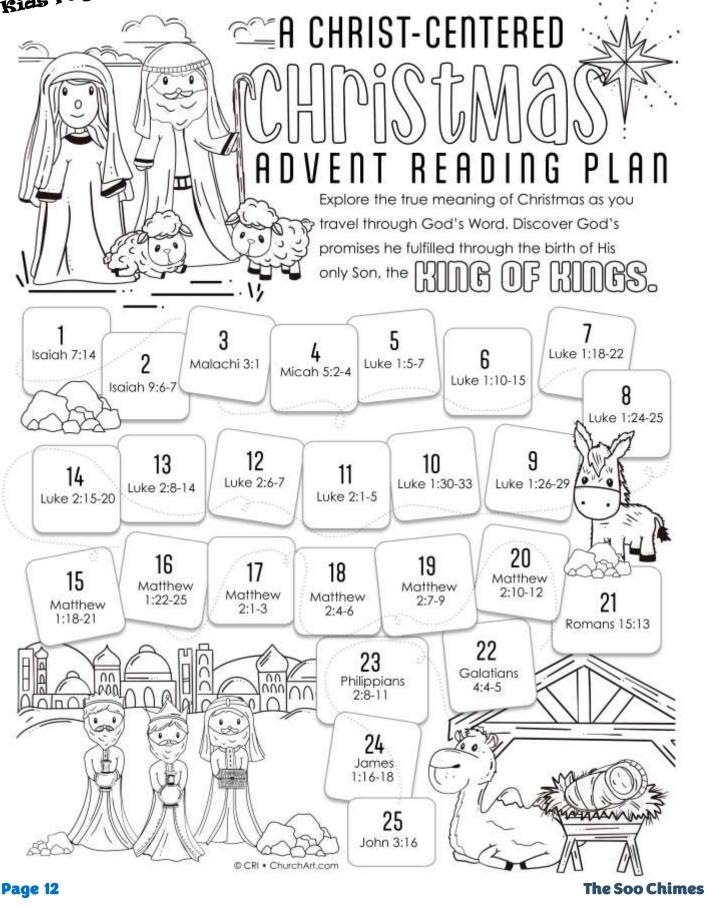
Steve mentioned that, with his Political Science degree, he does not shy away from either religious or political conversation. This horrifies Jess on a regular basis! (I feel your pain, brother.)

The First United Presbyterian Church has been blessed with a long history of Treasured Members and we are grateful for our delightful new member family, the Carlsons! Please seek them out and introduce yourself.

Thank you. Tom Corbin



Kids Page



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31 9:00am Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15am Choir Practice (MR) 10:00am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School	NO MORNING SERVICE 7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	17 9:00am Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15am Choir Practice (MR) 10:00am Worship Service Christmas Cantata	10 9:00am Coffee Hour (WR) 9:15am Choir Practice (MR) 10:00a Worship Service Childrens Christmas Program	 Solve the second second		Sunday
LB—Library MR—	25 CHRISTMAS	18 5:30pm Session Mtg (WR) 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH)	11 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH) Poinsettia orders due	7:00pm Boy Scout Troop #105 (SH)	C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	Monday
MR—Music Room S—Sanctuary	26 3:30p Food Pantry	19 No mtg	12 3:30p Food Pantry	(J	NO.	Tuesday
SH—Social Hall	27	20 9:00am Women's Bible Study (WR) 6:00pm Choir Practice (S)	13 6:00pm Choir Practice (S) 7:00pm Cantata Practice (S)	Womens bible study (WR) 6:00pm Choir Practice (S) 7:00pm Cantata Practice (S)	Ber	Wednesday
WR—Westminster Room	28	21 9:30am Textile Social (SH)	14 12:00pm Circle 3 (Applebee's)	 9:30am Textile Social (SH) 		Thursday
***	29	22 9:00am Men's Bible Study (WR)	15 9:00am Men's Bible Study (WR)	89.00am Men's Bible Study (WR)	9:00am Men's Bible Study (WR)	Friday
	30 7:oopm A.A (WR)	23 7:00pm A.A. (WR)	16 7:00pm A.A. (WR) 10:00am Cantata Rehearsal	9 7:00pm A.A. (WR)	2 2:00pm Jamison Spaghetti Dinner Benefit (SH) 7:00pm A.A. (WR)	Saturday

555 Bingham Avenue Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783



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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1p.m. Monday—Thursday

Sunday Worship Schedule Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School (all grades) 10:00 a.m.

Church Staff Rev. Mark Gabbard, Minister Brenda Ransom, CRE Kay Boyne, Music Director

Kay Boyne, Music Director Nicole Mckelvie, Administrative Assistant Jason Fuller, Sexton

Deadline for Newsletter inserts: 15th of each month



CANTATA December 17th



December 24th 7:00pm

No morning service Sunday, December 24th.