



open hearts  
open minds  
open doors

# Williamsburg United Methodist Church

5750 Williamsburg Rd. PO Box 40, Williamsburg, MI 49690  
231.267.5792

[www.wumctoday.com](http://www.wumctoday.com)

**Pastor:** **Matthew Chapman** pastor.matthew.chapman@gmail.com

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Office Hours: Tues. 9-11, Wed. 9-11, Thurs. 9-11

Dear Church Family,

As I enter into my ninth year of being a Pastor (and eleventh year of working within churches), I have been reflecting on the changes I have seen even in this short time. One of the biggest changes, and one that I feel is increasingly harmful to people's spiritual and emotional well-being, is the amount of folks not having funerals or memorial services for the ones they love that have passed.

Our society has a very tenuous relationship with death. We have removed it as far as we can: few people die in homes, they pass in hospital rooms; we no longer have the wake at home, but have a visitation in the funeral home if there is one; many people do not experience death until nearly adulthood. This is odd considering that each and every person will eventually die.

Our society and our faith has a structure for communally grieving, the funeral. The funeral, or celebration of life, or Service of Death and Resurrection (as the United Methodist Book of Worship calls it), is one of the few times we gather as a community to share in our grief and so offer comfort to each other. As Jesus says in his Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)"

I understand why some people tell their family they do not want a funeral, they do not like being the center of attention, they don't want to burden the family, they think it will help them not be as sad... BUT this is highly misguided. Because without a funeral, many families feel a lack of closure. Even whole communities can feel a lack of closure. And then if the family has a funeral anyway, there can be feelings of guilt that they ignored the person's wishes.

Funerals are NOT for the one who has passed. They are for the family, the friends, the community. The best thing you can do for your family is help plan your funeral while you are still alive! Let them know what hymns you like, what scriptures are meaningful for you, contact the funeral home and pre-arrange your service, so your family can focus on grieving your death and celebrating your life, instead of funeral details.

Please do not guilt your family beyond the grave.

You are a beloved child of God, your life deserves to be celebrated, your death deserves to be mourned, and your family deserves the hope and promise of life with you, and with Jesus, eternally.

If you have any questions about funerals, please let me know and I would love to talk more with you.

Blessings,

*Pastor Matthew*

ACTIVITIES

In June we collected  
\$269.00 for Right  
Tree. Thank you!



Usher List:  
July 7—Jan Donkers  
July 14-Jim Hockin  
July 21-Suzette  
Cooley-Sanborn  
July 28-Jim Hockin



Sign up sheets to  
provide Altar  
Flowers in the  
Narthex. Thank you!

Sunday, August 4th will  
be a combined service  
with Traverse Bay United  
Methodist Church!  
11 am at TBUMC  
1200 Ramsdell St  
Traverse City  
More information to  
come on this. Thanks!

Our Missions  
Offering for July is  
Supporting  
Kewadin Indian  
Mission. Thank  
you!

JULY CELEBRATIONS!

2nd Linda Belcher  
8th Shirley Lewis  
16th Evie Huver  
20th Judy & Tom Jenkins' Anniversary!  
21st Jean & Ron Ridge's Anniversary!  
22nd Chuck Walter  
28th Holly Barrett  
28th Sami Aisthorpe



# JULY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7 <i>9am Worship Communion Coffee Fellowship</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>9am Worship Coffee Fellowship</i>	15	16	17 AD Council Mtg 9am	18	19	20
21 <i>9am Worship Coffee Fellowship</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27 Church Picnic (see pg. 4)
28 <i>9am Worship Coffee Fellowship</i>	29	30	31			

**AA SCHEDULE**  
Saturday, Everyone, 7pm

# YOU ARE INVITED

We are excited to celebrate the One-year Anniversary of having Pastor Matthew as our Pastor here at WUMC. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet him and his family yet, this will be your opportune time.

**A CHURCH PICNIC WILL BE HELD ON SAT JULY 27, 2024**

AT THE HOME OF DONN & JERRI HUBBELL 9326 SKEGEMOG PT RD WILLIAMSBURG

**GAMES FOR KIDS LAKE FOR SWIMMING BOAT RIDES FOOD FELLOWSHIP**



**POT LUCK PICNIC- BRING A DISH TO PASS.**

**(HAMBURGERS/HOT DOGS WILL BE PROVIDED)**

**BRING YOUR SWIM SUITS, SUNSCREEN AND TOWELS**

**COME ANYTIME AFTER 1PM WE WILL PLAN ON EATING AROUND 4-5PM**

**PLEASE RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE 231 267-5792**

**OR [WUMCTODAY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WUMCTODAY@GMAIL.COM)**

**\*\* THIS WILL HELP US PLAN ON FOOD**

**HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE, BRING A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR**

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