

Westminster Presbyterian Church

103 E. Midland Street
Bay City, MI 48706

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MAY 2021

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ISSUE 150

THE WESTMINSTER LOG

Beloved Partners in Ministry,

After Jesus had been raised from the dead, he spent time with his disciples continuing to teach them. Before being taken into heaven, Jesus instructed his disciples to stay together in Jerusalem and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8)." The disciples had no idea how long they were to wait, or really what they were even waiting for, but they waited.

We all know the story. The day of Pentecost comes with the disciples together in an upstairs room. The sound of a violent wind fills the room and individual tongues of fire descend on everyone present. The promised gift of the Holy Spirit arrives, and the disciples receive power from God to speak new languages, cast out demons, heal the sick, and proclaim the gospel with renewed strength.

Following Easter this year, we have been hearing some of the stories of the early church in worship each week and in our Thursday night Bible studies. We have seen what the church was empowered to do once it had received the Holy Spirit and been challenged to carry on the work and mission of God's church.

Sometimes it feels like the world is waiting, that the church is waiting for another Pentecost event. We say, "If only God would step in and do (fill in the blank) then things would be better." When we have this mindset, we seem to forget our role in spreading God's kingdom. As God's church, the same Holy Spirit that was poured out on the disciples that day has been given to us. God has already given us the power to change the world, to build the Kingdom of God here and now.

On Pentecost, as described in Acts 2, the good news of what God was doing in the world spilled out of the room where the disciples were meeting and into the streets. **This year on Pentecost Sunday (May 23), we plan to do the same thing by taking God's good news out into the world. Following our indoor service at 10:30, we will move outdoors for a continued time of worship, fellowship, and food.**

My prayer for us as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost is that we remember the power and the guidance that we have been given through the Holy Spirit and that we listen to what God is calling us to do as disciples.

*Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.
Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.*

In Christ's peace, *Pastor Jamie*

Dear friends,

Westminster is an amazing place, and I am grateful for the opportunities I have had here. I've been able to learn and grow, try new things and see God working through the people of WPC, despite challenges like a transitional period as well as a pandemic. God is at work here. I am thankful for friendships I've made, opportunities I have had and being able to watch the children and youth learn and grow in their relationships with God and with each other.



I've been given an amazing opportunity and feel that God is calling me to more. I have been accepted to the MDiv/MAPT (Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Public Theology) program at Union Presbyterian

Seminary in Richmond, VA. I believe that with more education and opportunity for growth, I will be able to serve God and the church in greater ways. I will be transitioning from my role as Director of Christian Education and Youth at the end of June, and beginning Greek in July. While I will physically be leaving WPC, I will still remain connected as a member. As part of the ordination process, inquirers are supported by the church Session and come under care of the Presbytery.

I am so excited about all the new and exciting things that are happening at WPC, and I am confident that the children and youth will continue to grow, and that God will bring the right person to help guide them.

May God continue to bless each one of you,
Nikelle

MAY 2021 ISSUE 150

WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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Visit us on Facebook:
Westminster Presbyterian
Church - Bay City



Phone: 989-686-1360
E-mail: office@wpbc.org
Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Closed for lunch noon - 1 p.m.)
Friday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- Pastor Rev. Jamie Milton (ext. 204)
- Parish Associate Rev. Linda Williams (ext. 203)
- Church Secretary Judy Harrelson (ext. 201)
- Treasurer Heather Heidman (ext. 206)
- Christian Education Nikelle Johnson (ext. 208)
- Custodian Harold Miller (ext. 205)

THE WESTMINSTER LOG

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<i>May</i>	Office Hours Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Closed for lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m. Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. website: wpcbc.org Join us on Facebook Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City	
2	3	4
10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Outdoor Hymn Sing Drop off baby shower items in Fellowship Hall (see page 1 for details).	7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting	6:00 p.m. Personnel Committee
9	10	11
9:00 a.m. New Member Class 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Drop off baby shower items in Fellowship Hall.	6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting	6:30 p.m. Spiritual Growth
16	17	18
9:00 a.m. New Member Class 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Outdoor Hymn Sing Drop off baby shower items in Fellowship Hall.		7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
23/30	24/31	25
10:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:30 a.m. Pentecost Sunday Outdoor Fellowship (5/23) 11:30 a.m. Outdoor Hymn Sing (5/30)		12:30 p.m. Spirituality of Aging Movie 6:00 p.m. Book Club via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Happy Birthday Doris Bibbee Donna Gould Larry Wilson Susan Wilson Terry Molyneaux Charley Curtiss Judy Randall Patricia Horning Doreen Newcombe Gay Greene Ronald VanTol			1
5	6	7	8
1:00 p.m. The Wired Word Bible Study via Zoom 6:00 p.m. Property Meeting 7:00 p.m. Mission Part.	5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom		
12	13	NEW MEMBER CLASS SUNDAY, MAY 9 & 16 AT 9:00 A.M. Have you been participating in the life and worship of Westminster and want to know more about what it means to become a member of the church? You are invited to attend our New Member Classes! These two, one-hour classes will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 9 and May 16. Participants will learn about our PC(USA) denomination and what it means to be an active member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. There is no obligation to join the church after taking the class, but the classes are required for those seeking to become members. Please let Pastor Jamie or the church office know if you are interested in attending or know of someone who might be.	
1:00 p.m. The Wired Word Bible Study via Zoom 8:00 p.m. Worship Meeting	5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom		
19	20		
1:00 p.m. The Wired Word Bible Study via Zoom	5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom		
26	27		
1:00 p.m. The Wired Word Bible Study via Zoom	5:00 p.m. Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom		

Treasurer's Report

Building Improvement Fund

February Balance: \$27,856.75
 March Income: \$821.00
 March Expense: \$0.00
 March Balance: \$28,677.75

Operating Fund

March Income: \$19,903.09
 March Expense: \$36,188.99

Major Repairs Fund

\$48,267.42

Capital Campaign Fund

March Income: \$51,223.10
 March Interest Expense: \$1,370.84
 Loan Balance at end of Feb. \$424,757.29

Donate online at www.wpcbc.org

Thank you

Thank you so much! I really appreciate being remembered by my church family on my favorite holiday. I just moved to California and the gift card will come in handy!

Thanks again,
Rhi Holley

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent thoughtful gift to the Bay Area Women's Center!

Through your gift, you are giving hope to those who had lost it. You are proof that better days are possible.

The impact you have made is nothing short of life-saving, and we cannot thank you enough.

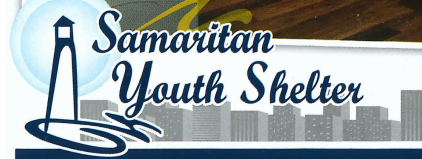


It's official! The new Samaritan Youth Shelter (SYS) has officially opened to welcome homeless and runaway youth ages 12 – 17. SYS has three main goals in assisting teens:

REUNIFICATION - to reunite youth with a parent or other suitable family member.

EDUCATION - The SYS team will work with youth and families to strengthen the youth's connection to their school and services the school provides.

LIFE SKILLS - The objective is to enhance the youth's ability to meet age-appropriate milestones.



The shelter is licensed by the State of Michigan and has received widespread community support. It will provide emergency shelter for up to 30 days. It is a voluntary program for youth and their families and can house up to five males and five females. To help a teen in need of shelter, call SYS at 989-893-5973 ext. 214. To learn more about the youth shelter, visit www.r3monline.org



As we slowly return to face-to-face worship, ushering before and during a service remains an important duty.

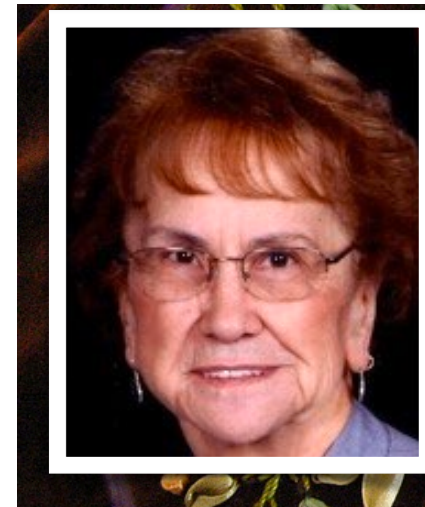
We need six ushers every Sunday — two at each entrance and two in the sanctuary to seat people. You would need to arrive at church by 10:00 a.m. If you are

comfortable being back at church, please consider volunteering as an usher during this time. An ushering schedule is sent out on Saturday, via text, to all the ushers, listing who is scheduled for the upcoming Sunday.

If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact Chris Elzinga by text or phone at 989-450-7113.



Per capita for 2021 is \$28.76. This is per active, confirmed member.



Condolences

Prayers are extended to the family and friends of Joyce Wachowiak. Joyce passed away on Monday, March 29, 2021.

A funeral service was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Friday, April 2, 2021 with Rev. Jamie Milton officiating.

Baptism

Astrid Kelly Morse, daughter of Emily and Aaron Morse, was baptized at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 11, 2021 with Rev. Jamie Milton officiating.



During this past year of the pandemic, babies continued to be born, and mummies were still in need. With the help of members of Deborah Circle, the Mother's Day Baby Shower (with some modifications) will again be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Unlike past years, when items were collected and displayed on Mother's Day, we will be extending our "shower" over several Sundays.

Beginning Sunday, May 2 and continuing through Sunday, May 16, we will be collecting baby items at the church. While we welcome items for babies of any age, newborn to 6 months is particularly requested. Some families have nothing waiting at home for the new baby.



CELEBRATING BABIES & MOMMIES!

Purchase items for the shower or donate handmade items — all are welcome! We do ask for new items only. We have checked with Salvation Army, Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, and Bay Area Women's Center and all are currently accepting items. The Diaper Alliance collects and distributes diapers to those in need in Bay, Saginaw, and Midland counties. We may also leave some diapers and wipes for our Food Pantry here at

Westminster. We can accept non-food items only.

You may bring your items to Westminster on Sunday, May 2, 9, and 16 and drop them off in Fellowship Hall. We will store all the items at church until we are ready to distribute them. If you wish to donate but are not attending in-person worship at this time, please call Karen Schoeppach (989-245-1175) and she will arrange a time for a drop-off at the church on May 3, 10, or 17. Once all the items have been gathered, photos will be taken to share with our Westminster family before they are distributed.

From "binkies" to blankets, the babies and mummies will be grateful for all you do!

From "binkies" to blankets, the babies and mummies will be grateful for all you do!



JOIN US FOR AN OUTDOOR HYMN SING

It has been wonderful to be able to return to in-person worship with our safety guidelines in place. We are thankful for all the work that goes into adding pre-recorded music to our worship services so that we can at least hear some of our favorite hymns.

One thing that we are still unable to do safely indoors is sing together. Even with masks on, it seems the risk is still too great. Knowing we all miss this part of worship, we are planning to hold some outdoor hymn sings.

Following worship, those that wish, can join us on the north lawn for a time of masked singing. For the month of May, we plan to sing together on May 2, 16 and 30. (We will also be resuming a time of outdoor fellowship after worship during the summer months.)

ADULT BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, May 25 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

The Adult Book Club meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

On Tuesday, May 25 we will discuss the book *The Red Tent*, by Anita Diamant.

"Her name is Dinah. In the Bible, her life is only hinted at in a brief and violent detour within the more familiar chapters of the Book of



Genesis that are about her father, Jacob, and his dozen sons. Told in Dinah's voice, this novel reveals the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood--the world of the red tent."

Books are available at church this month for check-out. You may pick one up in the church office during regular business hours.

Contact Nikelle at cedirector@wpcbc.org to receive Zoom login information.

The Wired WORD

An Adult Curriculum

CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION VIA ZOOM Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

A Place where Faith and Current Events Intersect

The Wired Word continues to meet weekly via Zoom on **Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 P.M.** Our discussions are a good blend of current events that trigger great faith and Bible reflection and discussion. A few of our recent discussions include: *A New World Map; Jesuits Pledge Resources to Descendants of Former Slaves; A Well-Known Pastor (Rev. Timothy Keller) Struggles with His Own Death...* to name a few. We have become a close-knit group, but not a closed group. Just this month someone new has joined in our discussion as one open to both listening and sharing.

The news always raises questions about what we think and believe, and gives us an opportunity to reflect on some of life's big questions, as well as reflecting on a variety of Bible passages from the Old and New Testaments that are relevant to the topic at hand.

Remember, if you are interested in just one week's topic, and not another week's, you are always welcome to drop-in for that week. Or if you just want a copy of the week's discussion materials, please contact Rev. Linda either by email (parishassoc@wpcbc.org) or phone (686-1360 x2). To receive a Zoom invitation for the week's gathering please contact Linda.

Deborah Circle will be meet by Zoom on Tuesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.

If you are unable to join using the internet, we can provide information on how to join by phone.

If you have questions regarding joining by Zoom, contact Darlene Kusterer at 989-385-4062. She is using her subscription to host our meetings. If you have questions about what we are using for discussion inspiration, call Karen Schoepach at 684-1322.

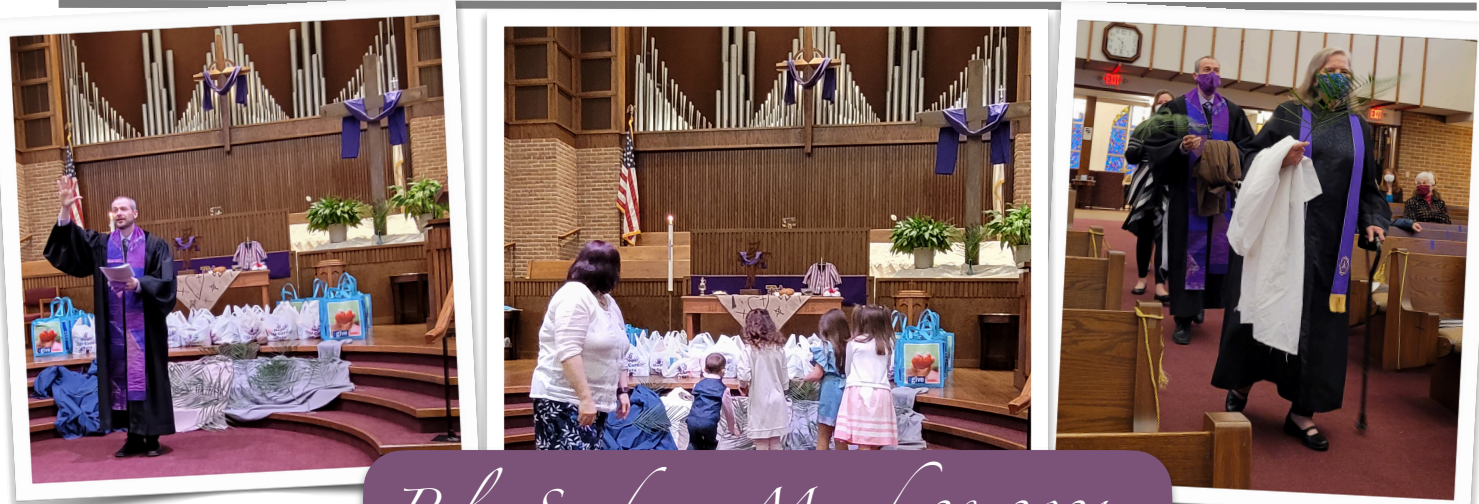


Vacation Bible School SAVE THE DATE Monday, June 14 – Friday, June 18



Easter Pageant - presented Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021





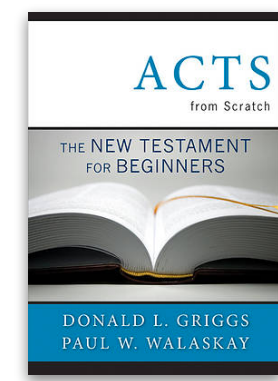
Palm Sunday - March 28, 2021



Maundy Thursday (left) & Good Friday (above)



Easter Sunday - April 4, 2021



SPRING 2021 BIBLE STUDY
THE BOOK OF ACTS

Last month in the Log we wrote about the importance of community and connections in our faith journey with each other and with God. This past month we wrapped up our Lenten study — *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* — and have begun a new one — *Acts from Scratch*. In both these studies we have purposely linked the Thursday evening Bible study with Sunday’s sermons. This has been especially enriching as we get to know our new Pastor as he leads us in worship and in the study of God’s word. Now you may be thinking — “How dry that sounds.” But, the Book of Acts is anything but dull. Our Bible Study Book (*Acts from Scratch*) asks — “think about words associated with ‘acts’: activities, actions, and acts.” What hint does just the title of this Bible Book give us about its focus, content, and themes?

SPIRITUALITY OF AGING

Our Spirituality of Aging series for these past seven months concluded in April as we explored Parker Palmer’s book *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old*. Thanks to all the “pairs” who hung in there with the discussions. We concluded with Palmer’s chapter, “Keep Reaching In: Staying Engaged with Your Soul.”

What we have all missed, though, is the opportunity to regather as a group in Fellowship Hall. **Join us as we can gather once again the Fourth Tuesday of May — May 25 at 12:30 — with either a brown-bag lunch, or at least with popcorn and soda as we enjoy a movie.** At this time several movie titles are being considered...and the good thing is that we will have all the months of summer to keep watching!

We will throw open the doors and windows in Fellowship Hall along with social distancing and mask-wearing to make sure our gathering falls

We have just begun reading our way through the 28 chapters of Acts — so there’s still time to join us and still a couple of books in the office. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at not just the stories about this early Christian movement, but also what the writer was trying to communicate to us about the work of the Holy Spirit (just count how many times the word “Holy Spirit” is written in the text!), unity within the Christian community, and the spread of the message and ways of the resurrected Jesus Christ. Great themes to explore these weeks following Easter. *The story told in Acts is now our story.* “The story told here is open-ended because it continues today in your church and mine” (William H. Willimon)

There’s still time to join us — as we make connections with one another and with our God, and as together we explore and study the stories of these earliest followers of Jesus Christ. We continue to meet **on Thursday evenings at 7 P.M. via Zoom.** Please contact Rev. Linda or Pastor Jamie with any questions, and Linda to receive the Zoom invitation.

within the guidelines of safe gatherings. Many of you have told us that you have been vaccinated, but naturally, attend only as you feel safe to do so.

Any questions, please call the church office or Rev. Linda; 686-1360 X2 or email parishassoc@wpcbc.org.



Each month the Spiritual Growth Committee will share in the Log, a few thoughts on the journey of grief that we all experience. We hope these brief thoughts will be of help and support to all.

"Nature is the kind of friend that never leaves my side. Even in grief-stricken times, in her soul I can confide."

Angie Welland-Crosby

Spring is starting now as we enter the month of April. Many of us have had a winter full of cold, snow, and isolation in our homes. Now that the days are getting warmer and longer, we can feel the small waves of hope and fresh smells of the new season. There is a feeling of rebirth and renewal rolling in for many. But this change, like all changes that come when we are in grief, can be confusing.

It's normal to feel anxious with the changing of the seasons while we grieve. Spring generally brings a sudden flurry of change and things begin to move faster all around us. We might feel like we should be happier, or we may even feel guilty when we are happy without our loved one. It might spur a deep sensation of how time is continuing to pass without the person we really want to have with us. We might feel more pressure to engage in things that feel overwhelming. We might feel far away from the person we were last spring. Sometimes we might just wish for cold rainy or snowy days



because they feel more aligned with the feelings we have in our hearts. This can be deeply painful for some.

Regardless of what feelings come up for you, they are acceptable and okay to feel. Sometimes, taking care of ourselves requires stepping away from what we think we "should" be feeling and listening to the messages that our hearts and bodies are giving us about what *actually* feels right.

One of the ways we can reclaim a feeling of connectedness with ourselves can be to get outside and to engage with the things that we can control within our lives. We can control if we sit in the sun. We can control if we move our bodies more in ways that feel good. Those of us who feel like getting our hands dirty might turn to gardening. It can even be as simple as taking more deep breaths and noticing spring smells. Give yourself permission to enjoy what you enjoy deeply and whenever possible. Lean in when you can.

Another way to engage with all this change is to be mindful of how the world around you is waking up. Note the sounds you hear, the smells, the way a flower or tree may change day-

to-day around you. Nature provides a visual of how those that look dormant can change and reopen again in new ways, but only when their time comes. It shows a model of resilience and that there is a season for everything.

This spring might not feel like yours right now, or it might feel like exactly what you need. Either is correct and allowed. The process of grief cannot be forced or rushed. It is part of our nature and requires self-grace, time, and patience as we work on our unique, always-changing, healing journey. Spring will come again.

Soothing Activities When Spring Doesn't Match Your Feelings

Long Walks: We can walk with friends or spend time alone in our favorite spots in nature. It can be a space to reflect on the sounds and complexity of the trees around us and can offer a great peace when everything inside us might feel chaotic or overwhelmed.

Gardening: Getting your hands dirty can be therapeutic. Investing in something for the future is inherent in the act of gardening and can offer a simple and a soothing quiet space to be with ourselves in nature.

Bird watching: This is an excellent way to find stillness and quiet as we take in the world around us without it feeling like it's over-powering us.

This can be done from the windows of our home.

Bonfires and Fire Pits: Sitting around a fire, either with your family or friends, can feel deeply connecting and simple. It allows us to be with others and with our thoughts, whatever feels right.

Go On a Picnic: Just getting some sun on our face as we eat a good meal can do a world of good even just for a moment of a day.

Think Before You Commit: No need to over-commit to things that don't feel right. Remember "no" is a full sentence. Well-meaning people in your life might push you to engage with

others when you don't feel up to it.

Change the Scenery: Take a drive if you like driving. Take in the moving space around you and explore from the space of your car.

Try to Meditate: Engage with meditation in spaces that feel safe and soothing to you. Finding a quiet space in a mind



that is exhausted can be challenging. Learning to use deep breaths to nourish ourselves during grief can be an incredible skill. YouTube videos and classes can help you engage with this skill to better support yourself.

Begin a Ritual: Work with rituals that honor and engage you with your loved one. This can mean a seat at the table during a holiday. It can mean visiting a grave site. It can mean having an outdoor memorial that feels connected to you and your family's needs. Listen to what feels right for you and not what you feel you "should" do.

Reprinted from St. Luke's Hospice Bereavement Program, Bethlehem, PA.



Looking ahead to summer...

Bible & Breakfast OR should it be **Brunch & Bible**? Either way, we are planning for its return this summer, right in our own church backyard! These discussions can be held before church or immediately following the morning worship service. We will offer Bible study along with a simple meal for a 45 - 60 minute gathering, but...

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DECIDE WHAT TIME for these three events. Before church for breakfast or after church for brunch? What would be your preference? Would you like to

attend at 9:00-10:00 A.M. or 11:45AM-12:45 P.M., immediately following Church service? The three dates we have chosen are **June 13, July 11 and August 8.**

Please let someone on Spiritual Growth Committee know your choice of time: Pam Binder – 989-493-9476 (you are welcome to leave a message)

Karen Schoeppach

Tim Rutzen

Amelia M

Kaye Walker

Pam Barnes

Hope to see you drop in on one of these delicious class times!!

The Spiritual Growth Committee

*Bible & Breakfast
OR
Brunch & Bible?*