

APR 2024



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Youth Group:

Winter Jam is an annual Christian concert tour with a diverse selection of artists. The youth will travel to Grand Rapids and enjoy a day of music. They will also hear the gospel and testimonies from various artists. Pray for everyone that goes to have a transformational experience.

Confirmation Retreat April 26-28

Do you remember going through confirmation? I hope it was transformational. That is our hope for youth today as well. Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater, Michigan has designed a retreat model for confirmation. I anticipate this to be an intense weekend experience.

SPARK: Study, Peace, Act, Relate, Kickoff

Students 6th-12th grade who are ready to make their confirmation will enjoy a weekend at Lake Michigan Family Campground including activities, music, and God-filled conversation. Share the journey of faith with other students. Led by United Methodist pastors from local churches and meets all the criteria for confirmation, which can then be conducted at the student's home church. Churches: Register by April 24. Check in 6 pm Friday (light dinner included). Check out 1:30 pm Sunday. Parents are welcome to join us at 12:30 pm on Sunday for Chicken Wing and Salad Bar buffet lunch, oh, and an awesome dessert!

\$50 each includes housing, food, and materials.

30 Hour Famine: On May 4th our youth will be fasting for 30 hours. This is a program put on by World Vision that serves the poor in developing countries around the world. This is an opportunity for our youth to learn about poverty and serve their community. They will raise funds that will go towards World Vision's mission programs.

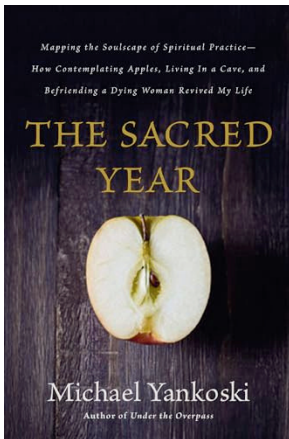
Prayer group: We changed the time to 1pm with the hope that it will be a better time for folks. We invite you to a simple time of lifting others up in prayer. Everyone is invited. There is not pressure to pray out loud. Come and enjoy the peace that comes in praying with others.

VERSE OF THE MONTH

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts," Acts 2:46

Kingdom Kids:

Through the month of April our Kingdom Kids will be learning about what happened after the resurrection. As a church we will be doing the same thing as we explore the book of Acts. Kingdom Kids will be looking at different stories. Each week will be a good chance to discuss as a family what happened after Jesus rose from the dead.



Retreats: April 30 9am-4pm

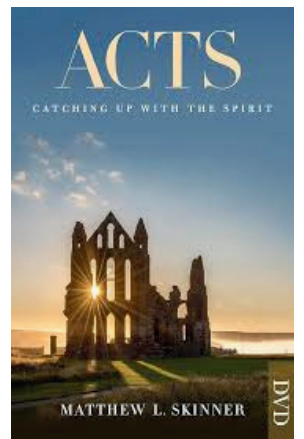
April Retreat: Exploring the practice of Simplicity. It is that time of year where we start to spring clean. We start to deep clean the house or at least go through the clutter in the basement, attic and garage. As humans we consume and accumulate stuff. We do anything but live simple lives. We are constantly plugged-in to all the stuff that is going on. A retreat is a chance to get away and unplug. The practice of simplicity is anything but easy but it is doable. We can all in our own small way simplify. Come gather with others and practice simplicity for the day.

Small groups

Acts: Catching Up With the Spirit by Matthew Skinner. The author describes the book of Acts as the wildest book of the bible. I agree. There are miracles, prison breaks, shipwrecks, and rousing speeches. Studying the book of Acts should open up our theological imaginations. May it spur us as a church to dream bigger and invite God's spirit to move in wild ways.

Serving Opportunities:

There is place and role for everyone to serve. We just started worshiping in the gym and could use help in setting up and tearing down. We could use help in hospitality. Would you like to serve as a greeter? Can you make coffee and set out snacks and treats? Do you have any interest in technology? We can always use more people to help. Fill out a communication card and check the box that you are interested in serving opportunities.



NEXT STEPS

- Join a Small Group
- Volunteer to serve
- attend the next Spiritual Retreat
- Come worship in the gym on Sunday mornings
- pray for the church and people's needs

LOOK OUT

- April 6 Camp Day @ Lake Louise
- April 12-13 Rummage Sale
- April 26-27 Confirmation Retreat @Lake Michigan Camp
- April 22 Earth Day
- May 4-5 30 Hour Famine