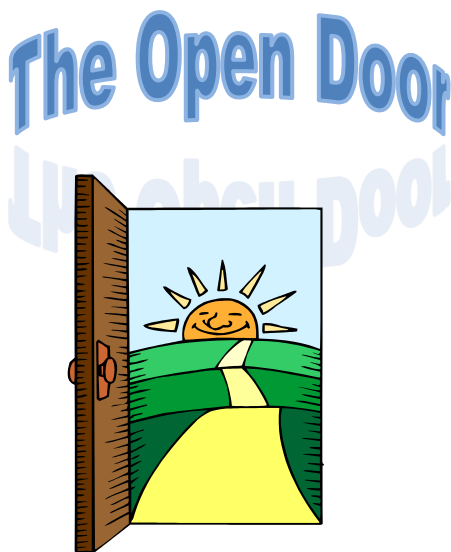




PMC Connections

From the desk of...

Reverend Thomas Davenport



Freedom

The One who made us, who has every right over us, profoundly respects us, as no one else so fully does. He knows the greatest thing about us is our freedom, our power to choose, to love. Therein, precisely, lies our particular likeness to the divine. And he will never violate that freedom, no matter how badly we choose to abuse it. He will never force his way into our lives.

M. Basil Pennington
Source: Centering Prayer

were not sure if they were army, navy, police or “doormen”! There was a constant presence watching us, keeping us in control, preventing us from seeing the “real” country.

When we left, we boarded a boat at Tallinn, Estonia. The custom agents carried Russian submachine guns. As we walked up the gang plank and step onto the Danish ship, I felt a load lifted off my shoulders! This load had not been placed on my back all at once, but one brick at a time for the last several weeks! I had not realized until that moment the significance of the Freedom we have in the United States of America.

We are not always aware of the freedom we have, nor the oppression we experience because, we either get used to it and take it for granted, or our senses are dull to the surroundings.

God gives us tremendous freedom!
God gives us great opportunities.
And yet, God will only give what we are willing to receive!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Thomas A. Davenport, Pastor

As I reflect upon the political process we are in, and wonder what is best, my thoughts came to me from 1977. I was able to travel to the Soviet Union with a band and choir. We spent two and a half weeks behind the Iron Curtain. We were shown the best parts of the cities, Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev. We met young handsome college students that spoke excellent English and spoke of the good things of the USSR.

All the while, we never were given the freedom to travel about on our own. We were always escorted, and any free time we did have, was when the shops were closed (national holidays). Everywhere we went, we saw men in uniform. We

Church Office: 269-344-0125

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

parchmentumc@tds.net
OR
pastorthomm@hotmail.com
www.parchmentumc.org

Deadline
for September Issue:
Monday, August 15, 2016

August 2016

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|----|--|----|---|
|  | 1 | 2 6 pm Family Fun Night | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 6 pm Family Fun Night | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Red Cross Blood Drive Noon-5:45 pm Newsletter arti- cles due today | 16 6 pm Family Fun Night | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 6 pm Family Fun Night | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 6 pm Family Fun Night | 31 |  | |  |

Head Usher for August: Norm Jones

Trustee on Duty for August: Bob Hamilton



- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Dan DeGraw | Winters |
| 7 Steven Smith | 17 Mary Carruthers |
| 7 Melanie Snell (Ford) | 18 Tammy Cooper |
| 8 Linda Winters | 23 Jenna Hausermann |
| 9 Jean Gray | 24 Janeen Dosca |
| 10 Dan Cermak | 24 Robert Hilton |
| 12 Scott Hancox | 26 Nathan Rickey |
| 16 Lauren Ireland | 28 Pat Arney |
| 16 Renee Kolich- | |



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

| | |
|---------|-----|
| July 3 | 103 |
| July 10 | 70 |
| July 17 | 83 |
| July 24 | 77 |



- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 1 Dan & Marylou DeGraw ('65) |
| 6 Harry & Gen Parker ('55) |
| 7 Andy & Pam Knight ('76) |
| 15 Mike & Julee Shelton ('10) |
| 25 Norm & Sherry Jones ('57) |
| 29 Eric & Julie Born ('92) |

Have you seen our website? Check it out!
www.parchmentumc.org
If you receive this newsletter by US mail, you can see it in *COLOR* on the website!



Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of Barbara Adams who passed away July 12, 2016. Barb had been a member of our church since 2011.



Kudos to...

- ◆ The Task Force for diligently studying options for the bequest left to the church by Gordon Lunt.
- ◆ Mary Wagner, Grace MacCarron (and other "Counters") for accurately counting and depositing our offerings each week.

World MISSIONS



The United Methodist Churches in the United States continue to support missionary work in Africa. We will be contributing this fall to the New Life Center (supporting Missionary Delbert Groves) and to Lord's Mountain Orphanage (supporting Pastor Bernard & Betty Lumene).

The following is an excerpt from a recent email:

Greetings from Lord's Mountain Orphanage, Zambezi, Africa

Dear Friends,

In April the plan has been to finish the roofing of the open part of the multipurpose room that was started 2 years ago with the financial support of the many United Methodist Churches in the United States. The builders are yet to finish plastering before working on the floors, which will be covered with PVC tiles. This is in the main room only.

Electricians are on site, and painters are on call and will paint everything. Carpenters are making 11 doors also.

We want to tell you about the importance of agriculture here as we are growing MAIZE and SWEET POTATOES with the help of the boys and girls that live here. These foods are the base of our diet. We can't close without telling you how much your support is appreciated and we give thanks to GOD for your love and prayers that have brought us this far. May the LORD'S name be glorified.

~Pastor Benard & Betty Lumene

FINANCE REPORT 2016

| | May | June | Year-to-Date |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Income | \$12,931.29 | \$11,163.28 | \$70,389.90 |
| Total Expenses | \$16,142.43 | \$17,139.83 | \$99,305.08 |
| Difference | -\$ 3,211.04 | -\$ 5,976.55 | -\$28,915.18 |
| Building Fund Difference | + \$ 2,712.23 | -\$ 168.77 | -\$ 7,782.62 |

The Parchment Family...



THANK YOU!!!

To all the generous people who baked pies, donated cash, worked at the pie booth, and bought pie! The proceeds of the pie and ice cream sales are going to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission Women's Building Fund.

Joann Pierce
United Methodist Women

Fall Bazaar 2016 – Mark Your Calendar!

The Fall Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 12, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Mark your calendar as this is the day to start your holiday shopping! Lots of special items are in the works . . . jams, jellies, gifts and more!



Beginning in August, Barb Glennon will be providing greeting cards to express sympathy, offer get well wishes, and/or send cheer to shut-ins. Please take a moment to sign the card(s) which will be displayed in the Social Hall (round table) during the summer months, and on the Welcome Center table in the narthex during the winter months. The cards will be mailed from the church office.

FROM PASTOR THOM

PREACHING IN AUGUST

(If you are able, please read the text ahead)

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| August 7, 2016 | 12th Sunday after Pentecost (<i>Luke 12:32-40</i>) Blessings of the Kingdom of God |
| August 14, 2016 | 13th Sunday after Pentecost (<i>Psalm 82</i>) Rescue the Perishing |
| August 21, 2016 | 14th Sunday after Pentecost (<i>Jeremiah 1:4-10</i>) Called before Birth! |
| August 28, 2016 | 15th Sunday after Pentecost (<i>Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16</i>) Care for the Stranger |

Parchment United Methodist Church
225 Glendale Blvd.
Parchment, MI 49004



A Purpose-Driven Church Serving Christ in
the Heart of Parchment



Like us on Facebook!



OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Thursday

9:00 a.m.—1 p.m.