

March 2024 Snapshot

Psalm 23:2



Sunday Sermons:

March 3rd: "Follow Christ through Committed Generosity" (Psalm 50: 1-12 & Leviticus 27: 30-34)

- Communion will be served

March 10th: Guest Preacher/Speaker TBD

March 17th: "Increase Our Resilience by Receiving God's Strength" (2 Corinthians 13: 5-14 & Colossians 1: 9-14)

March 24th: "Find Courage to Fulfill Our Calling" (Philippians 2: 5-11 & Luke 19: 28-40)

March 31st: Easter Sunday! "Maintain Hope through Belief in the Resurrection of Christ" (John 20:1-18 & 1 Corinthians 15: 1-20)

Important SCC Events

March 4th: Funeral & Luncheon for Jim Longwell, 11:00 AM

March 5th:

- ♦ Pastoral Relations Commission Meeting, 5:00 PM
- ♦ Christian Formation Commission Meeting, 6:00 PM
- ♦ Music & Worship Commission Meeting, 6:00 PM (virtual)

March 6th:

- ♦ Ladies Bible Study, 9:30 AM
- ♦ Sacraments and Visitation Commission Meeting, 6:00 PM

March 7th:

- ♦ Food Pantry, 2-4 PM
- ♦ Women's Life Groups, 6:00 PM

March 10th: Daylight Savings Starts (turn clocks forward one hour)

- ♦ Women's Life Group, 8:30 AM
- ♦ Men's Bible Study, 8:30 AM

March 12th: Council Meeting, 6:00 PM

March 17th: Bingo & Pizza, 4 PM (St. Patty's Day Theme)

March 23rd: Easter Egg Hunt, 4:00 PM at Scheid Park

March 31st: Easter Sunday

April 30th: Senior High School
Scholarship Applications due

Happy Birthday!



March Birthdays

2nd	James Merrifield
10th	Marcia Culver
	Hayzel Reffitt
15th	Patsy Veenstra
18th	Natalie Bush
22nd	Kim Coulson
23rd	Ed Culver
26th	Susan Carter
31st	Valerie Emelander

Let the office know if your name is missing and you would like it included.

SUNDAY, March 3rd VOLUNTEERS:

Lay Leader: Bruce Chadwick **Reader:** Sharon Ross

Praise Team: Nancy Downs, Bob Krieger

Singers: Melody Dotson, Terri Powers, Dean Gage, Sr., Jim Lóser

Tech Team: Luke Brogger, Lynn Kaufman, Todd Rosenberger

Ushers: Ron & JoAnn Reagan

Nursery: Margaret Chadwick

Children's Message: Bob Hemmingsen



Did you know?

That SCC sponsors a child from Hands of Grace? Below is a note from Edwin in his writing and translation.



Carta del niño

Queridos señores, como les va
espero que bien.
A mi me va super bien en
este inicio de año escolar, estoy
en segundo de secundaria.
En mis vacaciones de verano me
fue muy bien disfrute mucho.
También fue mi cumpleaños
el 14 de mayo, es la parte tan
bien que digamos pero disfrute
un poco.
También en vacaciones fui a
Costanza y a Jarabacoa
y disfrute con mis familiares
y amigos.
Espero que para las vacaciones
de este año escolar me
lleven a conocer otros
lugares y a entender los gustos
de otros lugares diferentes.

Atte: Edwin Morales

Dear Saranac church,

How are you doing? I hope well.

I am doing very well at the beginning of this new school year. I am in 8th grade this year.

My summer break went well. I enjoyed it a lot.

I also celebrated my 14th birthday. I had a lot of fun.

Also, during summer break I got to go to a couple different places (Constanza and Jarabacoa) with my family and friends.

I hope that during my school breaks this year they will take me to see other places.

Do you guys like to visit different places?

I say goodbye with lots of affection. I love you all as a group and I wish you a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Edwin Morales



And did you ever wonder where many of the prizes for Children's Worship come from? The Saranac Post Office collects them for us...items that would normally be discarded due to not being able to send back to the sender! What a blessing!

As Paul Harvey used to say, back in the day, "Now you know the rest of the story!"



Saranac Community Church
125 S. Bridge St.
Saranac, MI 48881
616-642-6322

After the excitement of the past Sunday, the Search Committee wanted to give an update on what the next steps are, and what prayers are needed.

Pastor Ethan and his family are looking for housing in the area so please be in prayer that they can find a home that meets their needs. We are asking that you continue to pray for his parents Dan and Christine who are dealing with cancer. Pastor Ethan shared that his dad is very close to being called home with Christ.

Let us remember, the many different feelings we had when we learned that God was calling Pastor Becky to her new mission. So let us be in prayer for LeRoy Covenant Church, it's congregation and it's God given mission.

There is no date set in stone for Pastor Ethan to start at this point (the hope is mid-May). When a time comes, we will let you know. Pastor Ethan is using this time to get to know SCC and its people. We can use this time to help us get ready for changes that are coming. Let us pray that we have an open heart, eyes, ears and willing feet to go forward where God is calling us.

We will also be setting a date that we can celebrate and rejoice all that Pastor Darwin has done for us here at SCC. We will share that information with you when we have it.

We have much to be Thankful for so let us also be thanking God for his many blessings. We will do your best to keep you updated. We appreciate your understanding and grace.

Yours in Christ,
The Pastoral Search Committee

**See last page of newsletter to view pictures of
the "Meet & Greet" Dinners with
Pastor Ethan Tews and Family!
(Courtesy of Kim Coulson for
sharing the pictures she took!)**

SCC Monthly Prayer List



Cancer:

Jo Bellgraph
David Briest

Pam Briest
Paula DeYoung

Brad Edwards

Medical:

Kelley Becker
Sawyer & Daxton Blain
Sharon Blanchard
Catherine Cove
Emma Dawson
David Downs

Valerie Emelander
Kevin Hielman
Stan Hagemeyer
Nancy Justice
Jess Spychiger
Harvey & Estelle Stark
Karen Taylor

Carol Washburn
Dave Washburn
Colin & Eleanor Williams
Pat Zander
Scott Zeeryp

UPDATES: This list reflects current needs that we are aware of. Please contact the office if your name (or the name of your loved one/friend) should be on the list. Also let us know if names can be removed. (We will need permission prior to posting any prayer requests.) **THANK YOU!**

Military Friends:

Riley Bedard
Zach Bevington
Kristin Carl
Jasmine Chadwick
Kameron Conroe
Alec Doll
Tyler Gorby
Landon Hall
Audra Hawkins
Kyle Hill
Levi Jackson
Jared Johnson

Tyler Johnson
Ben Littlejohn
Andy Lytle
Ian Manion
Trey Matthews
Charlie Miller
Patrick Miller
Maverick Musser
Jon Powers
Richie Sands
Mitchell Simmons
Ryan Sweet
Brian Swiger
Conor Talcott

Cody Westbrook
Robert Westover
Jim Whittum
Jayne Wilson
Bryant Zander





Women Of Worship



(Courtesy of Terri McCready for sharing the pictures she took!)

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

~Hebrews 10:24–25

Women of Worship
Saturday, March 9th at 11:00 AM



Women's Life Groups

Sunday Mornings, 8:30-9:30am

Thursday Evenings, 6:00-7:00pm



Men's Breakfast
March 2nd at 8:00 AM





“Called to Care” for Our Community SCC Emergency Funds (budget \$3,000)

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” — Mark 12:31

By ministering within our own neighborhoods, SCC believers directly impact our local community. Meeting tangible needs, sharing the Gospel, and building relationships contribute to transformation at the grassroots level.

Most importantly local mission encourages each of us as Christians to “look after our neighbors.” Our neighbor—whether sitting next to us in church, living on our streets or living in our community-- can experience Christ as we extend love, comfort, and care to those in need. Some of the ways that SCC helps our neighbors in an emergency are: **gas cards** when they need to get to **medical** appointments or work; portions of back **rent** when they about to be evicted; light **car repair** and assistance with **utilities**; help with emergency bills or need for **medications, food, and clothing** through the Christian Service Center. Our help to those in need is aimed to be a one-time gift and we do place a maximum dollar on the amount given in most instances. We encourage the people to set up budgets and seek help with their finances. We also extend an invitation to worship with us and offer prayers and Bibles, if wanted.

God also knows these experiences have the power to change us (SCC) at our core as we take our eyes off ourselves and look beyond our own needs. There is nothing to earn or gain through our actions. Serving our neighbor is simply giving thanks for what Jesus has done. To quote Martin Luther, “God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.”

In HIS service,
Bart Denny
Margaret Chadwick
Terri McCreedy
Cathy Merrifield
Connie Biggs

Saranac/Clarksville Residents, 2:00-4:00 PM

- March 7th
- March 21st
- April 4th
- April 18th
- May 2nd
- May 16th





Commission Member Spotlight: Jim Lóser, Chair of Music & Worship

This commission is globally responsible for worship. This includes assigning ushers, acolytes, lay leaders, providing flowers for the sanctuary, changing the paraments to match the church season/calendar, music, singers, baccalaureate breakfast, and many other “behind-the-scenes” activities.

If you could live anywhere besides, Saranac, where would it be?

~I actually live in Belding, but if I could live anywhere, I would like to be near where my future grandkids are living. Fingers crossed...

What is your favorite childhood book?

~Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

If you could choose a different career path, what would it be?

~I originally wanted to be a veterinarian, but thought going to school for 9 years was way too long. Funny thing, I ended up going 9 years for my undergrad due to changing my major every semester!

What is your favorite genre/type of music?

~Alternative, Indie Rock

What do you do to relax?

~Exercise or watch a good scary movie (I love Dexter)

What verse in the Bible do you claim as your own?

~James 1:2-3 (Given to my by my wife, Tricia, when we were dating.)

If you could live in another time period, what would it be?

~I love everything about the 1940s; clothing, cars, music

What is your favorite place to eat?

~Carrabba's

What is the most dangerous/risky thing you've ever done?

~I grew up being a trapeze artist in my backyard



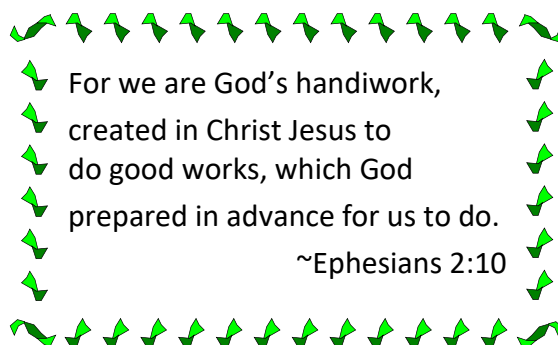
Staying Connected...

There are several ways to stay connected with SCC. If you would like to receive communications via texts and/or email, you will need to contact Jim Lóser (616-642-6322 or churchoffice@saranacchurch.org). If you are not receiving any form of communication, it's likely we don't have your contact information. Communications include the following options:

- ◆ Weekly Announcements (via email)
- ◆ Monthly Snapshot (updates via email)
- ◆ Prayer Chain (texts)

Easter is Coming!

- Palm Sunday, March 24th
- Maundy Thursday, March 28th
- Easter Sunday Services, March 31st
 - Sunrise Service
 - 10:00 AM



For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to
do good works, which God
prepared in advance for us to do.

~Ephesians 2:10

SEEK CHRIST TOGETHER In WORSHIP SUNDAY'S at 10am in person or on the SCC Facebook page

You can join us for worship on Sundays, if you are unable to attend in person, by logging onto the Saranac Community Church Facebook page at 10am.

Interim Pastor: Darin Youngs
pastordarin@saranacchurch.org

Office Manager: Jim Lóser
churchoffice@saranacchurch.org ~ 616-642-6322
Office Hours: Tues 10 AM-3 PM, Wed 1-6 PM,
Thur 1-5 PM



We are still looking for an additional person or two to help promote and coordinate the *RaiseRight* scrip program. Earn rebates to help cover costs for the 2024 camp season, UNITE,

DR Mission Trip etc.. Due date for our next *RaiseRight* scrip gift card order is **Sunday, March 10th**, which will be available March 14th at the church office. Delivery of cards can also be arranged. Contact Mark with your order or order online by visiting www.raiseright.com. Contact the Scrip coordinator if you need Saranac Community Church's enrollment code. It is very easy to do this and your order is automatically sent to our church scrip coordinator. You may also bring your payment to church or pay online for a small 29¢ fee. Remember, you can reload or print many cards at **any time** during the month if you enroll in *PrestoPay*. Use the *RaiseRight* scrip phone app to make ordering easier. Scrip also now offers the option of having select gift cards shipped directly to you any time during the month for an additional fee. **There are usually a limited number of Meijer and Speedway scrip cards available for purchase in the church office as well.** If you have any questions on how this program works please contact Scrip Coordinator Mark Fritsma (MarkF@wowway.com). **Earn rebates to reduce the cost of sending SCC kids to Portage Lake, Branch Adventures or a similar camp. UNITE (CHIC) returns in 2024 as well. You can still participate and help build the scholarship fund even if you do not have a camp aged child. We also consider scholarship requests for church related functions, such as retreats and mission trips, from adults as well.** Due date for next month's order is April 14th.



Want to know more about this program? Brien Simpson will be presenting a short overview at church on March 3rd and 10th. He will also be available after church to help anyone who would like to start this process. He will even help you with the app!



Looking for a free devotional? SCC receives a monthly supply of "Our Daily Bread" devotionals. You can pick up your copy located at the back tables in the Narthex, on the table where we also have free Bibles, or on the counter top in the main office. Feel free to take one the next time you are in church!



