

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

GRAND TRAVERSE AREA



Lake Ann UMC Receives Food Pantry Grant Award

CWU President, Julia Deemer accepts 2020 Gratitude Grant for \$500 from Traverse City Elks Lodge Chaplain, Mary Panek, on behalf of Lake Ann United Methodist Church's Food Pantry in late October, to help support the needs of their local community. The Elks National Foundation awarded five regional faith communities with this special grant including; Benzie Area Christian Neighbors, Kingsley UMC in Cadillac, Fresh Wind Christian Community in Interlochen, and First Baptist Church in Cadillac.



Note from Julia...

In our last newsletter I wrote about Queen Esther and her being queen "for such a time as this." Have you listened to God's nudging as to what you can do "for such a time as this?" Commemorating the deliverance of the Jewish people as told in Esther 9:17-28, Purim is a celebration filled with festivities, parades, games and dance.

We are still living in troubling times as we come to that special time of year when families celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. We may wonder how we can be thankful and joyful. We need to especially remember that Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, came into a troubled world as a babe in a manger. The angel told the shepherds, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you - wonderful joyous news for all people. Your Savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10, 11)

Remember this good news and be joyful. Find a way to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas.



NOVEMBER 24TH TUNE IN!!!

KEYS TO FREEDOM MINISTRIES

is doing things differently this year for the benefit of all!

In lieu of having a Banquet this year, they decided to have a media event in cooperation with Good News Media and WLJN Radio. "We believe this will be a great opportunity to provide you with some good old fashioned radio entertainment," so all you have to do is sit back and enjoy from the comfort of your home.

- GET OUT YOUR RADIOS -
Tune in on Tuesday
November 24th



89.9FM & 107.9FM



Here are some ideas from the celebration of Purim:

1. Exchange gifts of food and drink - give to a local food pantry.
2. Donating charity to the poor - Church Women United is giving donations from their funds to Salvation Army, Keys to Freedom, JFON, Jubilee House, Botanic Gardens, Acme Christian Thrift Store, and BDAI.
3. Public recitation of the scroll of Esther - read the Christmas story. If your family cannot meet in person consider using zoom or Google hangouts or the phone.
4. Reciting additions to the daily prayers and the grace after meals - make a list of those who need your special prayers, made a list of what you are thankful for.

*May your Christmas be filled with love
and the joy of the Lord.*

~Julia



November 2020 Native American Heritage Month

<https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>



[SMITHSONIAN Calendar of Events: Many are available online](https://www.si.edu/events/heritagemonth)

<https://www.si.edu/events/heritagemonth>

Recent Virtual Mission Trip

Randie Clawson

Some people from Michigan had the opportunity to attend a Virtual Mission Trip to the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC). As preparation for this mission trip, it was suggested that we watch this video about the Trail of Tears:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sdlx2bT7c6I&feature=youtu.be>

Many Native Americans from Michigan were also relocated to "Indian Territory"

Indian Youth

One of the events that Ruth and I shared as part of this virtual Mission Trip, was the interview of Native American youth. The interview displayed the understanding and wisdom they gathered from their participation in the activities of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC). Alyssa Underwood was one of the youths interviewed. Her YouTube video will increase understanding for anyone who watches it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmTAXg7j2eM> "Know My Truth"

Links to other videos from the virtual Mission Trip can be found at <http://www.umc-oimc.org/>

Advocacy for Long Term System Change

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a strong voice for justice for Native Americans, <https://www.fcnl.org>. Kerri Colfer, Congressional Advocate, Native American Policy Program of Friend's Committee on National Legislation indicated the following in a recent update.

Sens. Dianne Feinstein (CA) and Lisa Murkowski (AK) introduced a bipartisan **[resolution](#)** in support of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The resolution recognizes the increased levels of domestic violence brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in Native American and Alaska Native communities.

Bill Introduced to Establish Truth and Healing Commission

Rep. Deb Haaland (NM-1) and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (MA) introduced the **[Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy in the United States Act](#)** (H.R. 8420/S.4752) on Sept. 29. The bill would establish the first formal commission in U.S. history to investigate and acknowledge the forced assimilation and cultural genocide that occurred through the federal government's Indian Boarding School Policy.

Between 1869 and the 1960s, 83% of American Indian and Alaska Native children were removed from their families and communities and placed into Indian boarding schools. The goal of the schools was to assimilate Native people into white American society. In many instances, these schools, which were often operated by various church denominations, subjected children to physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse.

The Truth and Healing Commission would make recommendations for Congress to address the intergenerational trauma passed down as a result of these assimilation policies. It would also provide a forum for survivors to speak and would address the current lack of inclusive and accurate representation of Native American people and history in schools.

There is advocacy, education and action ahead for each and every Church Woman United member as we seek justice for Native Americans.

Please view the following links for opportunities to learn and understand.

<https://www.michigan.org/article/trip-idea/4-must-see-native-american-cultural-sites>

<https://museumofjibwaculture.net/index.html>

https://www.500nations.com/Michigan_Places.asp

<http://www.journeytothepastblog.com/2016/07/native-american-museums-in-Michigan.html>

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g42671-d105700-Reviews-Museum_of_Ojibwa_Culture-Saint_Ignace_Mackinac_County_Upper_Peninsula_Michigan.html

<http://aisp.msu.edu/native-msu/msu-museum/>

<http://aisp.msu.edu/about/history/>

In Solidarity,
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