



REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV

First I want to offer a heartfelt **THANK YOU** on behalf of Ivan, Ana, Luka, and me for blessing our lives in so many ways. Thank you for your kind cards and notes, treats, gifts, and generous love gift during the Christmas season. We were able to spend some time together over the holiday break, which was wonderful! We're grateful to be at Lake Harbor UMC serving God and others alongside all of you!

Now that our tree and decorations are down, **Valentine's Day is not far off, and this year** (for the second of three times in this century), **Ash Wednesday (the beginning of the season of Lent) falls on February 14.** Let's be honest: we might not want to dwell on our mortality on a day when our culture celebrates LOVE. Valentine's Day is a \$25 billion business, and on Ash Wednesday when we may be thinking about giving up chocolate or some other treat, how do we enter into this season?

It's a challenge to hold these two days in tension, but I found some encouragement from a colleague, Rev.

Abigail Parker-Herrera: **"Ash Wednesday can make us soberly aware of the fact that life has an end, and so we must make time and space for the people and things that matter."** I hope you'll join me and friends in Christ in Muskegon for worship on Ash Wednesday night. It's a poignant and important time to confess our sin, rest in God's grace, and celebrate the love of God together.

See you on Sunday, *Pastor Mary*

Muskegon Methodist Ministries

invites you to worship on

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Central United Methodist Church (1011 Second St.)



We welcome **Rev. Jodie Flessner** as our guest preacher. She currently serves as the District Superintendent of the Western Waters District of The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church.



We'll celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Baptism** on **Easter Sunday, March 31.** If you're interested in being baptized, or bringing your children for baptism, please contact Pastor Mary to set up an appointment for further conversation. **Membership class** will also be offered this Spring. Please contact Pastor Mary if you're interested in considering membership at Lake Harbor.

February Worship News by Karen Booth

February 4, 2024: "Keep Swinging"

Scripture: Romans 5: 1-5; Hebrews 12: 1-3

Film: "The Hill" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKXIKjYsc6U>)

Growing up impoverished in small-town Texas, young Rickey Hill shows an extraordinary ability for hitting a baseball, despite being burdened by leg braces from a degenerative spinal disease. His stern, pastor father discourages Rickey from playing baseball to protect him from injury, and to have him follow in his footsteps and become a preacher. As a young man, Rickey becomes a baseball phenomenon. His desire to participate in a try-out for a legendary major league scout divides the family and threatens Rickey's dream of playing professional baseball. Based on a true story.

Free showing in the sanctuary: Sunday, January 28 at 4:00 pm

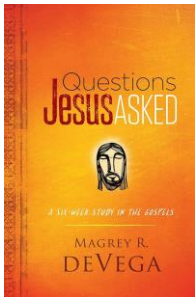
Synopsis: Our faith story undoubtedly has seasons of struggle when we feel like we're battling against ourselves or others. Following Jesus means that we have a Guide on the journey who knows the pain of struggle, the need for perseverance, and the strength of hope.



February 11, 2024: "My Story – Following the Jesus Way"

Scripture: Mark 9: 2-9

Synopsis: We all have faith stories. Today some will members share theirs.



"Questions Jesus Asked" (based on a book of the same name by Magrey deVega)

February 18 - March 31, 2024 (5 weeks of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter)

Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Author Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves.

February 18, 2024: "Who Do You Say I Am?"

Scripture: Luke 9: 18-27 (Matthew 16: 13-19; Mark 8: 27-29)

Synopsis: At the beginning of Lent, the question is about identity - both for Jesus and for us - and is probably the most important Jesus asks. Who do you say Jesus is every day? What difference does it make to believe in Jesus?

Christian Education does not meet on Feb. 18. **Please join us in Fellowship Hall for a congregational meeting between worship services from 10:15-10:45 a.m.**

February 25, 2024: "Why Are You Afraid?"

Scripture: Matthew 8: 23-27 (Mark 4: 35-41; Luke 8: 22-25)

Synopsis: Everyone is afraid at some point, and Jesus asks a seemingly obvious question in the midst of a fearful time. Fear can make us feel like we're sinking and out of control, but listening to Jesus and remembering that he is present reminds us that fear doesn't have to overwhelm us.



Fellowship Time is scheduled after worship services on **Sun., Feb. 11 and 25**, and **we're looking for people to serve coffee and refreshments**. Please **Sign up** at the Welcome Center.

Worship Connections Teams

Worship Connections Team meetings are open to everyone. Karen Booth leads the Worship Connections Team which meets most Mondays at 1:00 p.m. at church. Please contact Karen (231-798-8431, 231-557-1069 or kwbooth@comcast.net) for more details. Vicki Zuker leads the Celebration Team. Please contact Vicki (231-759-8848 or zukerr@comcast.net) for more details.

Worship Connections Calendar by Karen Booth

Sun., Feb. 4	3:00-5:00 pm	Un-Hanging of the Greens
	5:00 pm	Pizza for the Workers
Mon., Feb. 5	1:00 pm	Work Session in the Sanctuary
Mon., Feb. 12	1:00 pm	Work Session in the Sanctuary
Mon., Feb. 19	1:00 pm	Worship Connections Meeting
Mon., Feb. 26	1:00 pm	Worship Connections Meeting



MUSIC MINISTRY at LHUMC: *“God gave us music that we might pray without words.”*

As we approach this Lenten season, please **consider this a personal invitation to join either our hand bell choir or vocal ensemble - or both**, and add your gift to the music ministry of Lake Harbor UMC.

- **Vocal Ensemble** rehearses on **Wed., Feb. 7 and 21 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary.
- **Hand Bell Choir** rehearses on **Sundays at 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Music Room. **(No rehearsal on Feb. 11)**

Please contact Diane Thompson at 231-750-5153 or diane.sj.thompson@gmail.com for more info!

PRAISE TEAM rehearses on **Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.** Contact Michael Boersma at 231-670-6467 if you're interested in joining them.

“Lord, Hear our Prayers...” When you can't put your prayer into words, God hears your heart.

We pray for God's comfort for these families and friends.

In My Father's House...Carol Robbins passed away on Jan. 19. She is mother of Brent Robbins and grandmother to Kendra, Tristan and Chesney.

In My Father's House...Maxine Workman passed away on Jan. 22. She is sister-in-law of Dick Cornell and aunt of Karen & Jim Grace.



Our Prayer Chain is one way to be more intentional about praying for others. Contact the office at Office@LakeHarborUMC.org if you want to be included on the **E-mail Prayer Chain**.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP meets on **Sat., Feb. 10 from 9:30-10:15 a.m.** at Rose Emmons' home (5474 McDowell St.). We welcome all with a heart for worship through prayer and meditation. Come join us!

Our Monthly Prayer Service is **Wed., Feb. 28 at 6:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. This is intentional time to lift up our prayers to God and pray for our congregation, community, and world – and to remember the words of Jesus: *where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them.*



GriefShare offers help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. We meet on **Mondays at 6:30 p.m.** in the Lounge through April 1. More information is at

www.griefshare.org. Here's a portion of a **testimony from one of our participants** (shared with permission):
“The information presented, and more importantly, the discussion that followed with others who were experiencing similar devastation, we found to be oddly comforting. It was as though these strangers were our people. It felt each week like the miserable Band-Aid was ripped off, and the next morning, amazingly, the underlying wound was just a tiny bit more healed. The GriefShare program works.”

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

February Upper Room devotionals (both small and large print) are available at church. **Devotional readings** are also posted on our Facebook page every day. This is great way to nurture your spiritual health! You can access an audio recording of the **Upper Room** daily devotional at 1-877-600-7218.

Tuesday morning Bible study meets at **10:00-11:30 a.m.** in the Lounge – and on Zoom. We're currently studying the Gospel of John.

Men's Bible Study meets on **Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library. We're studying a book called *Life Lessons from Romans* by Max Lucado. Copies are available from Mike Layman.



Saturday Sisters Bible Study meets at **10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** at Rose Emmons's home (5474 McDowell St.). We are doing an 8-week study by Sarah Young on *Following God's Direction*. New members welcome! It's always a good time to study God's word and share with others as we grow in our faith!

Social Justice Issue: Celebration Worship chooses a **prayer focus each month** to raise awareness of **how our faith connects to important social issues**. We begin with prayer, and we're called to action. February's focus is **Homelessness and Affordable Housing**.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

February birthday blessings to our Sunday School friends:

Knox Bishop 2/18 Geneva Jones 2/21 Keelan Dean 2/24 Olivia Sroka 2/26

Sunday School meets from **10:15-10:45 a.m.** for **kids and youth**. We will not meet on **Feb. 18** due to Mid-winter Break.



January was cold, but the hearts of our Sunday School kids and teachers were warm! In December, we collectively filled 7 Christmas stockings for Kids Belong Foster families. Our families went above and beyond, and the families who received them were delighted!



We're making valentines for our homebound members and friends. We love helping everyone stay connected and feel valued. **If you're downstairs in the Sunday School hallway or in the back of the sanctuary, you'll notice a lot of fun supplies for making valentines.** Feel free to use them while you're waiting for kids to come out of Sunday School or during worship.

Lent is around the corner, beginning on Feb. 14. Watch for a take-home family Lent activity!



Even the middle of winter is the perfect time to be thinking about your summer plans – including Christian camping! Follow these links to find great options for everyone, including family camping: www.graceoutside.org and www.lakelouisecommunity.org

Scholarships are available too, first come first served, so don't wait! If you have any questions, please contact Niki Epplert or the office.



Lake Harbor Youth Groups



5th-8th grade meets at 6:00-7:00 p.m. **9th-12th grade** meets at 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Youth will meet on **Wednesdays: February 7, 14, 21, and 28**

We always start the New Year out with some self-care and a focus on making sure that we are connected to our faith. It's not us sitting around with cucumbers on our eyes (you can if you want!), but more along the lines of healthy habits, spiritual practices, deleting negative things from our lives (detoxifying), and bringing it all together - mind, body, and spirit. Some of that will be working its way into our lessons as we move towards Spring and add in elements of Lent. As the world around us goes crazy for Valentine's Day, we will be talking about love - God's love and how it differs from what we see around us in ads and marketing everywhere. Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year, and that will open us to some awesome conversation about what love really looks like.



Chili and Soup Cook-Off Fundraiser: Non-chili eaters, we have heard your cries! This year there will be chili AND several soups available for your tasting pleasure. We need your help though; we need cooks, and we especially need eaters to come enjoy a great night of fellowship and food! If you would like to make a pot of chili or soup, please let me know and we will put you on the list. Mark your calendars for **Fri., Feb. 23** from **6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Looking ahead: Wicked Sweet Winter Retreat on **March 1-3** at Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater.

Thank you so much! I am so blessed to be a part of this church community and to be in ministry with you. That in itself is a gift. Your generosity this Christmas was amazing as we surrounded our community in love with all of the Christmas projects we had this year, and in middle of all of that, for you to give so generously to the staff of the church is humbling.

Each year I take that gift and use it to go on a snowboarding trip with my best friends. It's a time of renewal, rest, and absolute joy for me. Thank you for making that possible again this year. As I ride down the mountain shredding the powder among the trees, I will think of you and smile. I am blessed! Thank you! Jimmy (I will be gone snowboarding in Vermont on Feb. 7-11 and will be unreachable. Niki, Kelsey, and Kate will be available if needed.)

Youth Director Jimmy Epplert's Contact Info: cell # (231) 750-9707, peaceandlovejimmy@gmail.com, Facebook = Jimmy Epplert **Jimmy is available** for meetings, hangouts, or small group gatherings.

College Scholarships for United Methodist Students: Applications are now open for scholarships from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. Every year, UMHEF awards \$2+ million to students planning to attend one of the 100+ UM-related colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country. **Apply by March 1 at** <https://umhef.org/scholarships/apply/>

If you're on Facebook, make sure to CONNECT and SHARE what's going on:

- Lake Harbor United Methodist Church page (**livestream Sunday worship**)
- Lake Harbor UMC – closed group ○ Lake Harbor Youth Group – page
- LHUMC Children's Ministry – closed group



Missions Corner

Missions Team meets every other month, and we're looking for passionate people to join us! Thank you for helping us serve others in Jesus' name. Our **next meeting is Mon., Feb. 12 at 6:00 p.m.** If you have questions or ideas, please contact the office or Jill McMahon at 231-343-5749 or jdcmmahon23@gmail.com.



Thank you for giving generously in January that transforms our community and the world!

- **Human Relations Sunday** offering is \$245.
- **January Noisy Offering** to support Shoes for Shores is \$769.50.

Our February Noisy Offering will support **MAP Food Pantry** as we participate in **Souper Bowl of Caring**.

Supper House: We serve on **Tues., Feb. 6 at 3:45-5:30 p.m.** with a team of 6 people to serve guests. If you're planning on serving, call Sheryl Thompson at 231-286-7680 so we can plan accordingly.



February MAP Food Pantry items: Canned Beans and Bars of Soap



Meijer Simply Give Campaign runs until April 2 benefiting **Mission for Area People's Food Pantry**. Last year's campaign raised \$7,500! Your \$10 donation at the local Meijer's store on **Norton Avenue** at checkout is matched \$10 by Meijer. **Double Match Days are March 2 and 23.**

Mission For Area People Appoints New Executive Director and Improves Accessibility: The Board of MAP is pleased to announce the appointment of **Kristen Turgeon** as the new Executive Director. Kristen has worked for MAP for six years in a variety of positions, the most recent one being Director of Programs and Operations. Kristen began her new position as Executive Director the first week of January. Also, MAP is improving its facility accessibility by moving its Food and Clothing Pantry within Temple UMC to an area that is handicap accessible, a need for several years. Watch for more information on an open house for all of our church partners. Thank you for your ongoing support of MAP and the community families we serve!

Servants are needed at **MAP Clothes Closet** on **Tues., Feb. 27 and Thurs., Feb. 29 from 12:15-2:00 p.m.** If you're willing to help, call the Office at 231-798-2181. **Men's clothes, housewares, and plastic shopping** are always needed and can be left in the MAP box by the main doors in the sanctuary.



*Be not forgetful to entertaining strangers,
for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. - Hebrews 13:2*

Our next time to serve – delivering meals to the Day Center - is Sun., Feb. 25 through Sat., March 2. Please **sign up** to deliver a dinner or help out with needed food items at this link: [Family Promise Sign-up](#).

Hand2Hand helps ensure kids have a weekend pack of food. We're collecting **canned pasta** to assist Temple UMC as they provide meals for the 64 students of Edgewood Elementary School. There is a box for your donations in the sanctuary by the Hand2Hand banner.



Many of our members are involved with the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce that puts on **Dancing with the Local Stars**. This year two of our members, Brian Mosley and Pete June, are dancing. This event raises money for local food pantries like MAP. Learn more at: <https://womensdivision.org/dancing-with-the-local-stars>



Membership, Nurture & Outreach (M.N.O.) News We welcome new members to this fun-loving group! Contact Sheryl Thompson at (231)563-6417 or Karen Post (231)733-2782.



It's almost Valentine's Day, and we're getting together on **Thurs., Feb. 8 at 11:00 a.m.** for a work bee. We'll be filling goodie bags with homemade cookies, valentines, and candy for our homebound members and friends. **Volunteers are needed to bake cookies and deliver!** Please sign up on the Welcome Center. They will be ready by 1:00 p.m. This is a wonderful way to show our love! You will be uplifted by our friends' beautiful smiles.



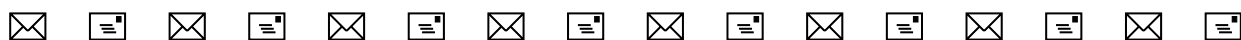
Lunch Bunch meets on **Tues., Feb. 13 at 12:30 p.m.** at **Driftwood Café at Tanglewood.** Everyone is invited! Sign up on the Welcome Center. It's a great way to see friends and meet new people!



If you're in the hospital or care facility, because of the privacy laws, we may not know that you are there. **Please have a family member or friend notify the office at (231) 798-2181.**

Members on the move... Please update the office if you're moving or changing contact information.

- **Jeanne Funnell**, 1350 W. Hackley Apt. 240 Muskegon, MI 49441
- **Betty Kinney**, 4425 Hickory Lane Norton Shores, MI 49441
- **Thomas, Ruth and Ezra McPhail Ubaldo**, 1946 Seminole Rd. Norton Shores, MI 49441
- **Phyllis Jones**, 17382 Oak Crest Apt. 4 Spring Lake, MI 49456



Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the goodie bag from my church family. I love you all and ask God's blessings to each of you. Thank you for your kindness, *Jean Wasserman*



Thank you for the beautiful Christmas goodie bag; everything was so delicious. It was very thoughtful. We sure appreciate everything. Love & Prayers, *Corinne All*



Thank you for the very generous Staff Christmas gift. Lake Harbor is a wonderful place to work, and I am so grateful to be a part of this church family. Peace to all, *Myke Bos, Administrative Assistant*



I would like to thank my Lake Harbor family for the generous Christmas gift. I am very thankful to be a part of a supportive and giving church community. I hope that your New Year is hopeful and healthy. Thanks again, *Gail Barefoot, Financial Secretary*



Thank you so much to the LHUMC congregation for the Christmas Gift. It's a pleasure being of service to you all. With love, *Smeeta Thompson, Treasurer*



Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. I am honored and thankful to be able to be a part of the worship service through music each Sunday. May you all have a year full of joy and love. *Mary Scott*



Thank you to our Lake Harbor family for your generous Christmas Love Offering gift! We so appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness as well as your welcoming us back among you after a few years away. It's great to be back! Blessings, *Mark (and Annette) Erbes*



Thank you so very much for your generous Christmas gift. It is such a blessing to me to be given the opportunity to collaborate and work with fellow members to share music as part of the ministry of Lake Harbor. Thank you again. Blessings, *Diane Thompson*



Thank you for your donations that made Muskegon County's "Christmas at the Jail" a success!
Chaplain Danny Peebles, Reach the Forgotten



OFFICE HOURS are Monday – Thursday from 9:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. The office is closed Friday and Saturday. The office phone is **231-798-2181**. If you leave a message on the weekend, **it will NOT be received until Monday.**



PLEASE NOTE: Our Administrative Assistant, Myke Bos, will be on vacation from Feb. 8-19. Please call before you come in to the church to make sure someone is in the building.

❄️ **Lake Harbor UMC Weather Policy:** If there's an activity scheduled in the evening, and the weather looks bad, call the church office (231-798-2181). A decision will be made by 3:00 p.m. if events are cancelled. **ONLY Tuesday Bible Study** will automatically be cancelled if Mona Shores Schools are closed.

2024 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the office. If you need them mailed to you, please contact the office.

From our FINANCE Team: We're so thankful to report that we've been to support ministry and mission for another year! **At the end of December and the end of 2023,** our total income for General Fund was \$389,795. Our total General Fund expenses were \$373,285. All bills and Ministry Shares were paid in full.

Our 2024 budget is \$395,453, which is an increase from 2023. We're confident that we can support this budget because of God's faithfulness and generosity through our giving – and because of your Faith Commitments. It's never too late to write yours down and send it in! This is one way that we are accountable to God and to our congregation together. If you have any questions, please contact Brad Hilleary, Finance Chairperson, or Pastor Mary. Again, thank you for your generosity in so many ways.



Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit card or debit card. Electronic giving offers convenience for you and much needed consistency in giving. You can set up your donations on our website or if you'd rather, stop by the church office for assistance.

To set up your electronic donation on our www.lakeharborumc.org:

- Click on "Give" button
- Click on "Create Profile" button
- Follow onscreen instructions.

Use this QR code to connect to online giving.



It's easy and stress free – and can help us to be more consistent in our giving, which blesses our church.

From our Trustees: We give thanks for funds given from the Hanna Family Trust. Bill and Lee Hanna set up an annual gift directed to our Preservation Fund, which helps us to complete needed projects. **Gifts to our Preservation Fund are always appreciated** – whether planned or given anytime!



COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

La Leche League, the breastfeeding group for parents, meets in the LHUMC nursery on **Tues., Feb. 20 at 11:00 a.m.** Questions? Contact Mary Swisher at 231-777-3238 or text 231-215-4145.

We're grateful to offer meeting space to **Girl Scouts, Pioneer Resources, LARC, and other groups too!**

Stay connected! **United Methodist Church:** www.umc.org **Michigan Area UMC:** <http://michiganumc.org>
Midwest District: <https://midwest.michiganumc.org/> **Lake Harbor UMC:** <http://lakeharborumc.org>

Are you interested in **serving as a Lay Member to Annual Conference?** There are openings on the **Western Waters District.** Please contact Pastor Mary if you'd like more information.

Sunday Servants:

Thanks for making our worship services meaningful, memorable, and accessible!

Serving Feb. 4 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Jim & Karen Post, Peggy Tully

Computer: Fred Yonkers *Camera:* Pat Yonkers

Sound: Ruth Pyman *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Counters: Cyndi Barefoot, Mike Layman

Serving Feb. 4 at 11:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Brad Hilleary

Greeters: Sheryl Thompson & GL Bates

Computer: Skyler Bosch *Camera:* Vicki Zuker

Sound: Bob Bosch *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Tear down: Jimmy & Niki Epplert

Serving Feb. 11 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Fred & Pat Yonkers, Kathy Mertz, Rod Moon

Computer: Larry Kasmauski *Camera:* Lisa Kasmauski

Sound: Gary Cooper *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Ed Baranowski, Mudgi Cavender

Serving Feb. 11 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Dirk Fuller

Greeters: John Colella & John Thompson

Computer: Jim Grace *Camera:* Vicki Zuker

Sound: Karen Grace *FB Host:* Niki Epplert

Tear down: Laura Dean, Kelsey Boss

Serving Feb. 18 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Mark Rousell, Bob Keim

Computer: Karen Booth *Camera:* Jean Kelly

Sound: Dave Booth *FB Host:* Jen Cooper

Counters: Madonna Borgerding, Allen Winslow

Serving Feb. 18 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader & Tear Down: Chris Beaudoin

Greeters: Jill Warren & Jill McMahon

Computer: Julie Fuller *Camera:* Jay McMahon

Sound: Arianna Davros *FB Host:* Ruth McPhail Ubaldo

Serving Feb. 25 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Dave Stamy, Adam & Ruth Pyman

Computer: Luka Ivanov *Camera:* Derek Mertz

Sound: Rob Mertz *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Bev Layman, Jim Cavender

Serving Feb. 25 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Rose Emmons

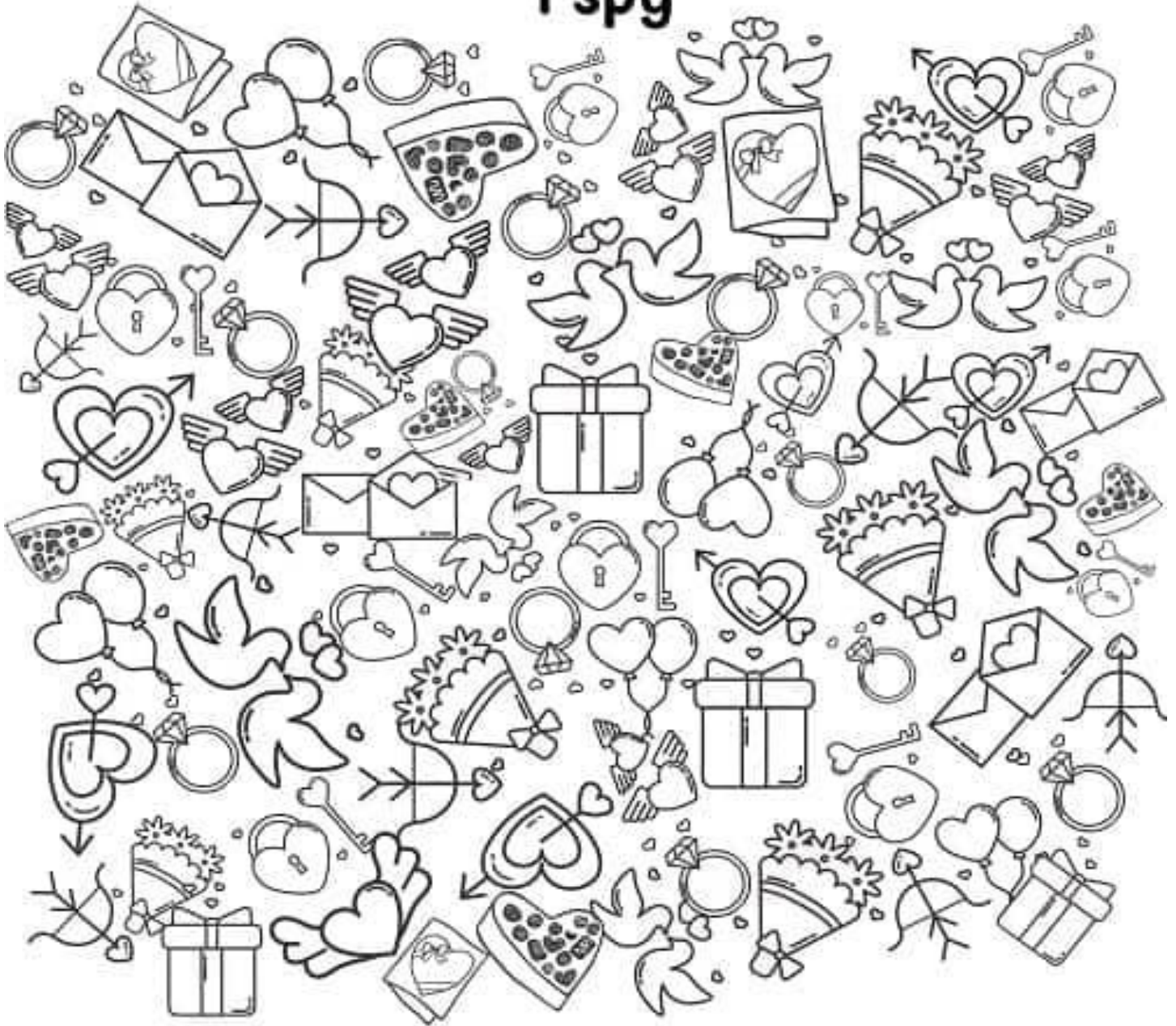
Greeters: Jan Pascavis & Ruth McPhail Ubaldo

Computer: Brian Mosley *Camera:* Jason Colella

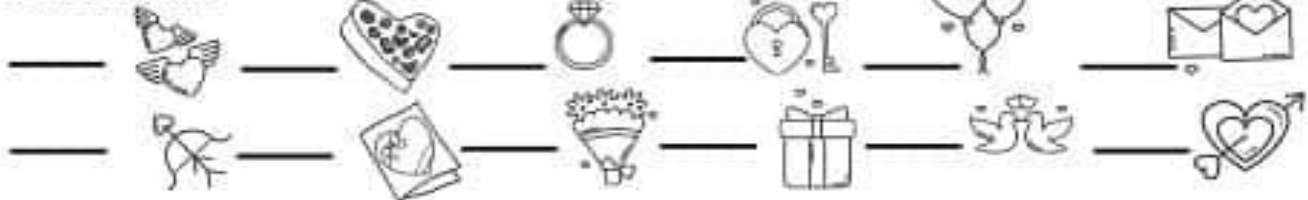
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Kid's Page

– VALENTINE'S DAY i spy



count and color!



Lake Harbor United Methodist Church

4861 S. Henry St.
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