

PATHWAY

a Wesleyan church

March 4, 2018

Love | Learn | Live | Lead



I hope that you are enjoying “The Great Escape” series. We are in the season of Lent – a time to take personal inventory of our spiritual lives and strengthen areas of weakness. A great test to see if you are walking in freedom is to take on a new spiritual discipline or give up something for the Lord. A good place to start might be to forgive yourself for weaknesses and failings.

Moses had to discover that God was not limited by human weaknesses. God is bigger than our weaknesses and our value is not tied to them. Moses was slave to his past failings. His trust was in himself and his self-value was diminished by his weaknesses and his misdeeds. The elders of Israel were slaves to their inability to lead freedom for their people. The Israelites were slaves to felt needs and low self-value and Pharaoh was slave to the gods and power structures that had been handed him.

What debilitating beliefs do we embrace? What arguments will change our minds? It was Benjamin Franklin who observed that, “a man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still.” It seems that our will, not our intellect, is key to our mind-set. Our will vigorously and unreasonably defends what we have decided to believe. When our will is grounded in truth and is submitted to God it is our great friend, but when it is not, it is a great taskmaster and slave-keeper of the mind.

In the Exodus story we find out how God breaks down and breaks through those various taskmasters and slave-keepers so that minds are changed. God’s desire is to set people free. It is His will that all people know that He is God; that His word is the only trustworthy place for our dependencies; that true freedom only comes in Him. But in order for people to know and build their lives on that truth, our will needs to give way. The struggle is great.

-Pastor Mark Lipscomb

Coming Up

- Sunday, March 11: Saranac Housing Commission Dinner, South Bldg: 6:00 pm
- Thursday, March 15: Wesleyan Women, 1:30 pm
- [Sunday, March 18: Baptism Service, 10 am \(combined service\)](#)
- Sunday, March 18: Baby Shower for Michelle Fletcher
- Tuesday, March 20: Secret Prayer Pal Reveal: 6:30 pm @ Ellen Lipscomb's House
- Friday, March 23: Teens All-Nighter @ Craig's Cruisers

Announcements

- Sunday, March 11 is our next **Community Dinner at the Saranac Housing Commission**. We will be in the South Building (main building on Parsonage Street). Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm. Please sign up at the information table if you would like to contribute to this month's meal.
- On Sunday, March 18th, we're extending the **opportunity for YOU to be baptized**. If you would like to explore the option of baptism,, or if you have questions about what it means to be baptized, please talk to Pastor Mark Lipscomb, Pastor Andy Trowbridge, or Terra Penninga. We'd love to have a conversation with you about baptism!
- The **Ladies' Secret Prayer Pal** reveal and new sign up will take place on Tuesday, March 20 at 6:30 pm at the home of Ellen Lipscomb. Please bring a gift for your current prayer pal and a snack to share. For more information regarding the prayer pals, contact Connie Jordan.
- On Friday, March 23, our teens will be participating in an **All-Nighter at Craig's Cruisers** in Grand Rapids. Cost is \$15 and includes pizza, go-karts, laser tag, trampoline park (\$3 extra for socks), Ninja Warrior course, cruiser coaster, bumper cars, and ropes course. Teens must sign up by March 7. Each teen can bring one new friend at no additional cost. **ADULT DRIVERS ARE NEEDED!** Please contact Ellen Lipscomb (616.822.0718) for more information.

Pathway - A Wesleyan Church
4960 Portland Rd
Saranac MI, 48881

Traditional Service, West Berlin Chapel, 8:15 am
Contemporary Service, Ebenezer Center, 10:00 am

Mark Lipscomb, Pastor | pastor@wbwc.us | 616.642.6210
Andy Trowbridge, Children's Pastor | antrow35@gmail.com | 269.804.5796
Terra Penninga, Assistant Pastor | thepennings@gmail.com | 616.902.9775

Global Partners : Goal - \$6,750 Received - \$5,040 (75%)
WKFM: Goal - \$300 Received - \$76 (25%)
Parsonage Kitchen Remodel: Goal - \$15,000 Received - \$7,110 (47%)