## CUMC NEWS July & August 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Among many things I could write about, I want to begin with saying how I have been concerned and praying for our farmers, in Carleton, throughout Michigan and many parts of our country. It has been a tough year with so much rain which has delayed planting, as well as made it impossible for some to plant anything. I have been praying and praying for our farmers due to all the rain, not to mention with ongoing challenges with the worldwide commerce. Not only are our farmers affected, but many who rely on them, including each of us and so many in our state, out country, and the world. Changes in seasons where winter seemed to linger, spring delayed, and summer arriving at a crawl. And no doubt April showers have become May and June showers too! There are times when I pray and see amazingly quick answers. Then there are times when answers are delayed or never seem to come. Of course there are the unanswered prayers in our minds and perspectives that may be the answers to someone else's prayers. However, the constant rain has been too much where farmers who have insurance have made claims because they have not been able to plant as usual.

Though it may be too late for some or even many of our farmers, I write and ask each of you to lift up prayers when you read this, as you read it and throughout the farming season, what is left of it. Pray for better weather, for the rest of this year and for next years. Pray for our farmers; for strength, for protection, for good harvests for those who can plant and harvest. Pray for our farmer's families. Pray for all who are blessed as well as affected by our farmers and the produce that blesses us all so many ways.

Again, there are so many things to write about, discuss, and to pray about. In recent months, I have been praying for our farmers, as I have each and every year. This year I ask us all to lift up prayers daily, regularly, and fervently as this year has been one of the most challenging times in a very long time.

I end with saying that I once told someone that all I could do was pray for them when it came to a very serious situation. God bless the person who responded by telling me that it was the most important and valuable thing I could do for them as their pastor. We all can pray for one another. And when we pray all together, I truly believe our voices are just a bit louder in the ear of God...and may our farmers may be granted some extra grace and help in this and the future years.

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