## **MEET THE PASTOR**



Jonathan Combs was born to Jim and Mabeline Combs on September 15, 1958. Jonathan is Married to Debra Combs 28 wonderful years and counting. They have 6 children, 5 grandchildren, all of which are wonderful. Rev. Combs graduated from Ecumenical Theological Seminary School the Urban Ministry program in 2006 in Detroit and has passed lay speaking classes and Local Pastor Licensing for the UMC.

Rev Combs is also a graduate of Methodist Theology Seminary school of Ohio Course of Study Program 2017.

Jonathan was appointed by the Bishop Jonathan Keaton and the District Superintendent Dwayne Miller as Faith United Methodist Churches Local Pastor in 2009. Jonathan's second appointment in the year 2020 by Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey and District Superintendent Reverend Dr. Charles Boayue is a two point charge at Garden City First UMC and Graceful Journey Community Church.

Jonathan is currently retired from Ford Motor Company with 30 years of service. Jonathan loves to work out at the gym and loves Golf and vacation. Jonathan has been called by God to minister to God's people; this spirit filled man of God is humble and grateful to be a part of the UMC family. Graceful Journey 6443 Merriman Garden City Mi 48135 <u>gracefuljourneygc@gmail.com</u> <u>facebook.com/GJchurchGC</u> Church Office: 734-421-8628 Pastor Jonathan Combs: 313-595-7810 Saturday at 10:30am







MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES: SMALL GROUPS FOR TEENS/CAMP OUTINGS/NURSERY/PARENT SUPPORT, SMALL GROUPS/TRAINING FOR TEACHERS/ HELPERS.

# GRACEFUL JOURNEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

A welcoming environment for individuals, or families with special needs. An all-inclusive, come as you are place to worship and connect through fellowship every Saturday at 10:30am.

The Vision: To create and support a church/worship experience that will be sensitive to all families and individuals that are dealing with cognitive disabilities.

The Mission: To create a United Methodist Church in Michigan that will offer families a safe place to worship that will meet the standards of most disabilities.



Sherri Frost (Worship Leader) joined the GJ team with a heart for worship and a desire to guide others into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Jesus through worship and song. She has decades of experience leading and directing individuals, groups, and choirs in a variety of musical genres-all for the glory of God. She is also an Assistant Director

of Admissions at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, where she has worked since 1993. Sherri resides in Garden City with her spouse, Larry. They have 2 sons, 1 daughter-in-law, 20 nephews, and 5 nieces.

Tracy (KCM)-has been a resident of Garden City for 44 years. I have 2 Daughters and a granddaughter who are the center of my world. I am a social worker and case manager for individuals with Special Needs and Thank God every day for these blessings in my life. I feel



honored and blessed to be a part of the Graceful Journey Community Church.



Lisa (KCM)-I am happy to be part of the Kids Connection Ministry team. My experience with children includes coaching my daughter's soccer team, catechism teacher, youth group ministry, and substitute teaching. I enjoy being around children and learning

from them. I currently reside in GC with my daughter, and cats.

Jennifer (KCM)-Childcare provider in Garden City. Is the GC representative of the WCPAC. Married with two daughters. happy to be involved.





Pastor Trudy graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Music degree; Eastern Michigan - Master of Arts in elementary school; Ecumenical Theological Seminary -Master of Divinity. Trudy taught elementary school, mostly in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades in

Plymouth-Canton schools. She ministered for 6 years for the United Church of Christ. She was a program host on weekends for 13 years on Detroit's classical music station. WQRS. Trudy loves people, animals, music, and God's Creation.

Darlene- A Regional Administrative Coordinator for Power Storage Solutions in Livonia. She is President of the Garden City Board of Education and has been an advocate for children with special needs for the past 22 years. She has also served



as Treasurer of the Autos for Autism Car Show Committee for 19 vears.



Kayrl Waters-. I am a member of the First United Methodist Church Garden City. My position there is Pastor Parish Relationship Committee Chair. I am very excited to be on the Vision Team/Start Up Team of Graceful Journey Community Church. It is a very exciting ministry & looking forward to the journey. God's blessings to the outstanding, extremely gualified group

of ladies working this "Special Church". Being led by Number One Reverend Pastor Jonathan Combs. Blessings to all!

# To Parents, May we suggest...

**Relax!** God put the wiggles in children. Do not feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit towards the front where it is easier for your children and family to see what is going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others! Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastors, worship leaders' choirs, etc. Help them find the hymns and scriptures in the hymnals and Bibles.

Sing the hymns, pray, participate in the liturgy Children learn about worship and liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you must leave worship with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said "Let the children come to me..."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Please let your children do their artwork, color, and make notes, and play with fidget toys. Children's activities are available at the entrance.

# TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

## Ways to get involved

•Pray: We need you to mention us to God when you pray. This is a unique ministry never done before, so we need to lean on Jesus and our community of faith for guidance.

 Connect: Follow us on Facebook and other social media sites, call us, connect with us, come, and preach and worship with us. You will find it refreshing to worship on Saturdays with this special congregation.

 Support Financially: We need help with items only used for the Special Needs community--rocker chairs, soft furniture, special lighting, comfort toys, special items for education (books, headphones, gadgets for comfort and training for ministry). We estimate a cost of \$2,000 per year for special items.

We will be partnering with Kulture City and Faith UMC in Canton Ohio for training and continued guidance to enhance this ministry. We have learned and listen to Jesus when he told the church, "Let the children come to me. Do not stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." We believe that this community is the blessed community and must know that the United Methodist church is their home also.

The budget: We estimate a budget to be more than \$25,000 per year with staffing of a 1/4 time Pastor, worship leader, and equipment needed for services and education for members. (Church Vibrancy Committee has committed to helping with Pastor salary plus for 3 years.)

We thank you for your gifts of love and partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ, all gifts can be sent to Zelle quick pay, or by check payable to Garden City First UMC, 6443 Merriman Garden City 48135 (please list "Graceful Journey Community Church" in the memo line)





