

2025

SPRING HARVESTER



DeColores
Ministries

Southwest Michigan



Dear DeColores Community,

We are honored to serve alongside each of you as we continue to grow in love and service to our Lord.

In these times, when the world seems increasingly divided, it is more important than ever to reflect on the example of Jesus—who embodied love, compassion, and reconciliation. He calls us to be a light in the darkness, to bring hope to the weary, and to extend grace to those in need. Let's hold fast to these values and remain dedicated to our mission as a community that reflects His love to all.

As we continue our work together in Christ, we encourage you to stay connected and involved. Whether by attending the **Ultreyas** that are held on the **third Saturday** in the months of **May, August** and **November** or attending the upcoming **Holy Hours**, or **praying** for and **serving** the men and women during **weekends #147** and **#148**, each opportunity is a chance to strengthen the bonds that unite us as a community and further the Kingdom of God. We are excited for what God is doing and believe He has great things in store for us. May we remain faithful, confident in His promises, and always ready to answer His call.

Thank you for your commitment to DeColores. We pray that God continues to bless each of you and your families.

In His Service,

Dave Lingle & Sherry Smith

President Team

THOUGHTS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

I came to Christ when I was 33 years old and began attending a church nearby. After a few years another church member, Susie Swift invited me to attend a DeColores weekend. I asked Susie “what’s it about?” Karen Slattery, who was next to Susie interrupted, “Andy, you will really like it.” I had to take the word of the pastor’s wife. She was not wrong, and I was reminded of weekend #25 when this quote from Luther came across my feed this week:

“I felt myself absolutely born again. The gates of paradise had been flung open, and I had entered. There and then the whole of scripture took on another look to me.” – Martin Luther

I do not believe that my experience was unique and many of you probably have similar memories. What I have become addicted to over the 30 years in this ministry is the joy of seeing others experience that same revelation. And then as a team member realizing that God had used each of us on the team to touch the lives of the candidates for eternity. How remarkable is that?

Just to show my age I’m reminded of Wayne Watson’s song “The Touch of the Master’s Hand”. My fellow team members and I are that old violin that is of little value until we are in the Master’s hand; Capable of little impact individually and without plan, but together with the direction of a divine plan able to affect eternity for those he has set in our path. If you are new to the community and want to be used by the master, fill out the servant survey, attend Ultreya’s, serve meals, and attend the closings. To you older dodgers do likewise as we are called to be effective and productive (2 Peter 1:8)

Andy Abrams
Spiritual Advisor

Greetings DeColores Community,

As we transition into our new role as past-presidents, we feel it only fitting to take the opportunity to thank the community for your support and dedication this past year. It has been an honor to serve and work alongside such a wonderful community. The year, much like many before it, was filled with God-centered, life-changing weekends and experiencing them in the President role was amazing!

As 2025 unfolds, we are so excited for the future of the ministry with strong capable Presidential leadership AND a vice president couple! We as a community are extremely blessed, as Southwest Michigan Secretariat continues to be a very healthy and thriving governing board that serves by being proactive in keeping God at the center and meeting the needs of the community in an ever-changing world.

We look forward to seeing all of the wonderful things God has in store for Southwest Michigan DeColores this year and encourage you to serve, pray, and be an active part of your DeColores community!

You are Loved!

Chris and Sheila Winkelmann

DeColores #113 & #114

2025 Past Presidents

DeColores
Ministries

Southwest Michigan



HIS MERCY IS EVERLASTING

Letter to the Community

“What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms,”

The Lord knows! I trust in his timetable not only for me as Rector of 147 but He knows everyone that will be involved in the weekend and especially the candidates that are coming to weekend 147. God is the Master planner, I thank God!

Thank you to the community for selecting and supporting me as Rector for team 147. The community had been willing and able to help me along the way, it was easy filling the inside and outside teams, I'm looking forward to seeing more of the community at setup, closing and cleanup when we are done. So many yes answers!

I know many of you have prayed for this weekend. We always look forward to each weekend, men's as well as women's and seeing what God will do with the servants who are willing to trust in God to get things done and help us disciple others. The candidates that are coming will be blessed and see Jesus as we walk through three days and journey to what we know as 4th day. We will have a lot of fun and that is the plan, fun!

The theme, “His Mercy is Everlasting” has a back to basics feel. “Praise the Lord, His mercy is more” is a focus on mercy and grace of what the Lord has done for all who call upon the name of the Lord. We do praise the Lord!!

Our scripture verse, Ephesians 2:4-6 leads up to verse 8 which says: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—” The gift from God, the mercy and grace we have because of His great love. We do go and tell as we are this men's weekend.

I am looking forward to the candidates each of you send to this weekend. We are following Jesus and asking for prayer as we head toward weekend 147.

DeColores,

Al Churchill

Rector weekend 147

DeColores Men's Weekend #147 March 20th-23rd 2025

First United Methodist Church, 326 N Lowe St, Dowagiac, MI 49047
Theme: His Mercy is Everlasting **Song: His Mercy Is More** **Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-6**

INSIDE TEAM CONTACTS

Rector:	Al Churchill	269.270.8818	AlChurchill76@aim.com
Co-Rector:	Ron Hayden	816.206.6263	Rghayden63@gmail.com
Spiritual Directors:	Denny Soule	574.213.4123	Dennysoule@gmail.com
	Andy Abrams	269.646.2114	metalcaster@live.com
Head Coordinator:	Jimmy Kinyon	757.784.1959	Agoofydiver@gmail.com

OUTSIDE TEAM CONTACTS

Kitchen Help Coordinator:	Eric Thompson	574.894.4412
24-Hour Prayer Coordinator:	Butch Reed	574.612.5364
Clean Up Coordinator:	Bill Dickson	574.248.9966
Guard Duty Coordinator:	Al Shirrell	269.208.2379

EVENT INFORMATION

Meal Times: (approx. times)	<i>Kitchen Help: Please Arrive At Least 20 Minutes Early</i>		
Friday:	Breakfast: 7:15 am	Lunch: 11:45 am	Dinner: 5:15 pm
Saturday:	Breakfast: 7:00 am	Lunch: 12:15 pm	Dinner: 6:45 pm
Sunday:	Breakfast: 7:15 am	Lunch: 12:00 noon	

Palanca Drops: (approx. times)			
Friday:	1 st Drop: 2:00 pm	2 nd Drop: 5:00 pm	3 rd Drop: 9:00 pm
Saturday:	4 th Drop: 8:00 am	5 th Drop: 1:00 pm	6 th Drop: 4:30 pm

Set-Up:	Wednesday, March 19th @ 6 pm
Sponsor's Chapel:	Thursday, March 20th @ 8:15 pm in Sanctuary
Holy Hour:	Friday, March 21st @ 7:00 pm @ Federated Covenant Church 202 Center St. Dowagiac, MI 49047
24-Hour Prayer Begins:	Friday, March 21st @ 9:00 pm
Past Rector/Rectoress Serenade:	Saturday, March 22nd @ 7:30 am (Breakfast)
Church Service:	Sunday, March 23rd @ 9:30 am
Clean-Up Sunday:	Sunday, March 23rd @ 6:30 am – Tear Down and Reset for Sunday Church Activities @ 3:00 pm Rollo Room After Closing – Final Clean-Up of Entire Church
Serenade/Closing	Sunday, March 23rd @ approximately 4:30 pm

CHECK OUR SWMI DECOLORES WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFORMATION www.swmi-decolores.org

TOTAL FORGIVENESS

Dear DeColores Community,

What an honor it was to be chosen as the Rectoress for the Women's DeColores Weekend #148. The truth be told, my name was not drawn from the hat a few times. This never upset me because I knew that it was a God thing. When God knew I needed a rest, He said, "No." When God knew I wasn't fully prepared, He said, "not yet". When He wanted to give someone else a chance, He said, "maybe next time". I was happy for those who were chosen before me. I really feel it was due to good upbringing and Biblical principles being instilled in me at an early age. When my name was drawn, I was beyond excited.

I came about the theme of TOTAL FORGIVENESS by reading four books authored by R.T, Kendall: We've Never Been This Way Before, Holy Fire, Sensitivity of the Spirit, and Total Forgiveness. In Total Forgiveness, I found our weekend's scripture; Ephesians 4:30-32. "Do not quench the Holy Spirit with whom you are sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, and malice of every form. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ, God forgave you." This scripture embodies how the peace of the Holy Spirit lit on Jesus like a dove and remained on Him. We can experience this also, by being kind, compassionate, using self-control, and being more like Jesus.

Our theme song is "In Jesus Name (God of Possible)" by Katy Nichole. A few key points from the lyrics really stood out to me: God is faithful, the name of all authority, and revival.

I have a great inner circle of team members who have helped me get to this point. Carman Wildes, my Co-Rectoress, is the most loving, prayerful person I know. She sends me inspiration in the morning, "like draw closer to Him" and "the God of the Universe is eager to spend time with you". She always has the right biblical answer to all of my questions. Annie Adams, our Head Coordinator, is a sweetheart, who is right on target with technology. She is fast, concise, and a real people pleaser. Elayne Hayden, our Head Cha, is the person I would like to model myself after. I've seen her love on others and by her example; I know I can do it too. My goal is to put myself under her tutelage.

To the DeColores Community, I thank you for your prayers for this weekend. Please continue to pray for the Men's, Women's, and Deco-TEC weekends that God will move in mighty and powerful ways. One more thing- pray that the purpose of our themes will be written on the hearts of all who have contact with these weekends.

Love to all,

Linda O'Keefe

Rectoress of DeColores #148

DeColores Women's Weekend #148 April 3-6, 2025

Theme: Total Forgiveness **Song:** In Jesus Name (God of Possible) by Katie Nichole **Scripture:** Ephesians 4:30-32

Rectoress: **Linda O'Keefe** Co-Rectoress: **Carman Wildes** SD's: **Venita Massey & Michael Smith**

Host Church: Zion Missionary Church, 1135 East Hively Avenue, Elkhart, IN

Head Coordinator: **Annie Adams (269) 357-3514** www.swmi-decolores.org

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2: Set-Up @ 7:30 pm

THURSDAY APRIL 3: Sponsor's Chapel @ 8:15 pm in Sanctuary
Hosts: Win & Lea Weddington (Lea 574-904-3436)

FRIDAY APRIL 4: Holy Hour @ 7:00 pm @ Adamsville Road Church of God,
Host: Jack Brikha (773-310-1111) 51287 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN
24-Hour Prayer begins @ 9:00 pm
Coordinator: Sherry File (269-208-3740)
Guard Duty from Friday 11pm – Saturday 5am
Coordinator: Jack Brikha (773-310-1111)

SATURDAY APRIL 5: Past Rector/Rectoress Serenade @ 12:25 pm (lunch) in the Gym
Coordinator: Eric Thompson (574-849-4412)

SUNDAY APRIL 6: Zion Missionary Church Worship Service @ 10:30 am
Re-set rooms @ 6:15 am for Sunday church activities
Final clean-up after Closing
Coordinator: James & Laurie Pierce (Laurie 574-276-9326)
Serenade @ 4:30 pm in the Gym
Closing immediately following in the Sanctuary
Hosts: Paul & Anita Pawelski (Anita 574-304-5266)

Kitchen Help Coordinator: Kelley Nickel (269-445-7977)

MEALTIMES:

FRIDAY:	Breakfast: 7:15 am	Lunch: 12:00 pm	Dinner: 5:15 pm
SATURDAY:	Breakfast: 7:00 am	Lunch: 12:15 pm	Dinner: 6:45 pm
SUNDAY:	Breakfast: 7:15 am	Lunch: 12:00 pm	

PALANCA DROPS:

FRIDAY:	1 st Drop: 2:00 pm	2 nd Drop: 5:00 pm	3 rd Drop: 9:00 pm
SATURDAY:	4 th Drop: 8:00 am	5 th Drop: 12:00 pm	6 th Drop: 4:30 pm

A Heartfelt Thank You

The Secretariat board would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the community members who graciously and anonymously donated money to purchase several items needed for our weekends. Your generosity and support have made a significant impact, allowing us to replace several worn-out cots and upgrade our sound system. We are also deeply grateful to those who donated the refrigerator/freezer combo. These items will be used on every single weekend, and we are truly blessed to be part of such a caring and compassionate community.

As our ministry continues to grow, we are also hoping to purchase:

- A new camera system for use during Holy Hours

In addition, we must increase the donations made to the churches that so graciously host our events, ensuring we maintain strong relationships and that they will continue to welcome us with open arms.

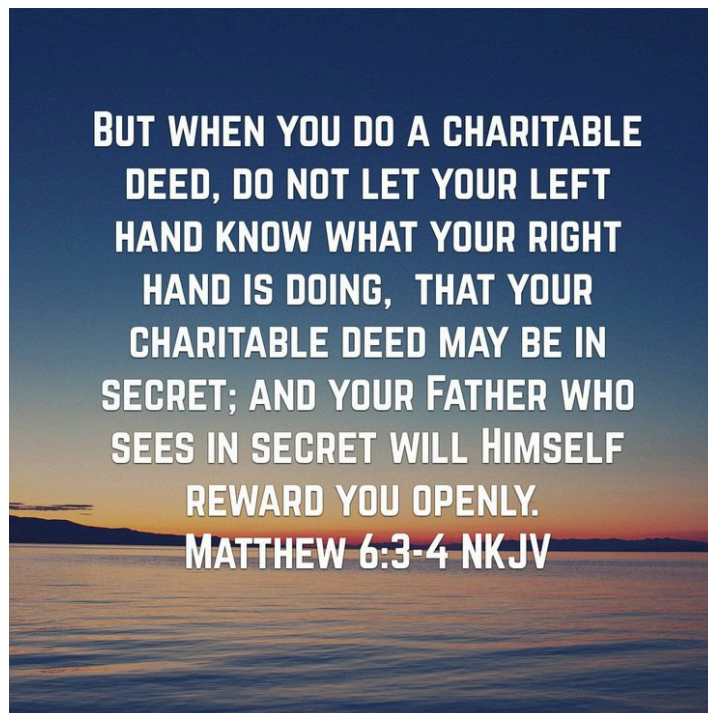
Please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this effort. We believe in the power of community and trust that, with God's guidance, we will be able to meet these needs. If you feel led to give, monetary donations can be made easily through our website at swmi-decolores.org or by mail to:

Southwest Michigan DeColores

P.O. Box 225

Niles, MI 49120

Once again, thank you for your continued support and prayers as we work together to strengthen this valuable ministry and make a lasting difference in the lives of so many.





Nominations Needed for Rector and Rectoress for the Fall Weekends

The Southwest Michigan DeColores Community is accepting nominations for Rector and Rectoress for the upcoming Fall weekends. To ensure that these positions are filled by individuals who are fully qualified, please review the minimum requirements for this position below:

Minimum Requirements:

- Completed at least three (3) DeColores weekends as a team member.
- Served as a rollista on a DeColores weekend.
- Served as a coordinator on a DeColores weekend or completed a Fourth Day Workshop.
- A minimum of three (3) years of membership in the Southwest Michigan DeColores Community at the time of nomination.
- Is a person whose life consistently exemplifies the values of the DeColores Ministry.
- The nominee must not have served as a Rector or Rectoress within the preceding seven (7) years.

How to Nominate:

Any member of the Southwest Michigan DeColores Community is welcome to nominate someone for Rector or Rectoress. To submit a nomination, please ensure the individual is both interested and willing to serve. Once confirmed, please send a letter with their name and qualifications to the President team via email. You can email to info@swmi-decolores.org or ssbasketcase@aol.com or davethe18th@comcast.net.

Thank you for helping us be able to continue to offer these weekends!

BECOME A SPONSOR

We Invite You to Sponsor a Candidate For An Upcoming Weekend!

This is a fantastic opportunity to bless someone with a once-in-lifetime experience. To learn more, please visit our website at swmi-decolores.org or scan the QR code below to access the online registration form.

The next men's weekend is scheduled for **March 20 – 23, 2025** and the next women's weekend is scheduled for **April 3 – 6, 2025**. Please note there is a **\$50 registration fee**, which covers the entire cost of the weekend.

Important Note: To ensure a positive experience for all, **we ask that you sponsor no more than two (2) people per weekend**, as there are many responsibilities involved. You can review the full list of sponsor duties on our website.



Use the camera on your phone to easily scan this QR code to access the online registration form.

Weekend Etiquette for Volunteers and Sponsors

Community support is a vital part of a DeColores weekend, and the weekends could not run without it. The prayer and service of the community is an important part of a successful DeColores weekend.

Please take note of the following information.

- * Community members who come to support the weekend for kitchen help, 24-hour prayer, and praying for a rollista are to remain in the areas designated for those purposes. The kitchen, dining hall, 24-hour prayer room and rollista prayer room are the only areas that outside team members should be. (Exception to this is the photographer during pictures on Friday. President or President team and the person giving the Going Home talk on Sunday, and only during their talks).
- * Cell phone use by candidates and inside and outside team members as well as all outside help, is prohibited.
- * Please respect and uphold the guidelines of the weekend as they have been designed so the candidates and the inside team can bond and are undistracted. Walking around the halls, in the sleeping rooms and outside the Rollo Room is not allowed.
- * Only the inside team members and new Crucistas are to attend the follow-up meetings held after the weekend. If you bring the person you sponsored to the meetings, please have an alternative place to wait.
- * Serenade and Closing are open only to those who have completed a DeColores or other Cursillo style weekend. Children are not allowed to attend, and childcare is not provided.

2025 Ultreya Dates

Ultreyas are a wonderful opportunity for members of the DeColores community to come together in fellowship to deepen their faith, and continue living the principles of piety, study, and action. Please join us, it will be a time for spiritual growth and strengthening relationships within our community. Families are invited! Be sure to bring a dish to pass, your own table service and your favorite drink!

Saturday, February 15, 2025 – 6 pm
(this is a voting ultreya for 2025 VP)

First Baptist Church
1446 E. Main Street, Niles, MI

Saturday, May 17, 2025 – 6 pm

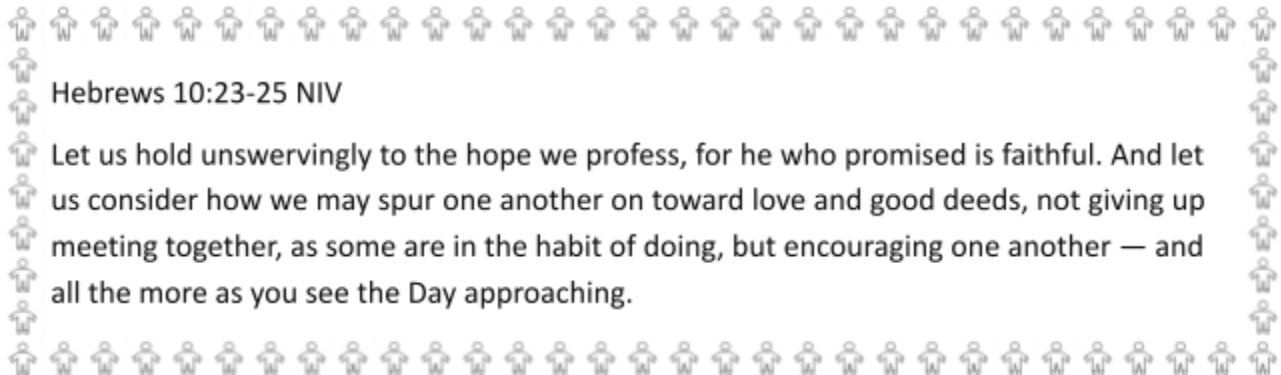
First Baptist Church
1446 E. Main Street, Niles, MI

Saturday, August 16, 2025 – 6 pm

First Baptist Church
1446 E. Main Street, Niles, MI

Saturday, November 15, 2025 – 6 pm
(this is a voting ultreya for 2026 VP)

Location TBA



Hebrews 10:23-25 NIV

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Southwest Michigan DeColores Ministries

2025 Secretariat Board Members

President Team: Dave Lingle & Sherry Smith	davethe18th@comcast.net ssbasketcase@aol.com
Vice President Couple: Bill & Gail Fitzgerald	bfitz1401@gmail.com gail.gard@yahoo.com
Past President Couple: Chris & Sheila Winkelmann	wink911@gmail.com Sheilawink1977@gmail.com
Spiritual Advisors: Andy Abrams & Michael Smith	metalcaster@live.com Michaeltsmith63@gmail.com
Secretary: Deb Traversa	debtraversa@gmail.com
Treasurer: Leigh Bishop	65lambishop@gmail.com
Pre-DeColores: Jason & Christy Pruet	jasonpruett812@yahoo.com Christypruett918@yahoo.com
In-DeColores: Josh & Faye Curtis	jwfmcurtis@gmail.com
Post-DeColores: John Smith & Vern Hochstetler	smith.john59@gmail.com v.hochstetler@yahoo.com
Historian: Marcia Pedzinski	cotamarsh@yahoo.com
Website Coordinator: Carrie Wack	hotpinkcarrie@gmail.com
Palanca Coordinator: Kristal Kelly	kristalk@lifeplan.org
National Representatives: Tammie Peffley	tammiepef@yahoo.com
Social Media Manager: Brandi Mayer	branmayer@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: Cindy Ruminer	cruminer79@gmail.com

Board Meetings are held on the **4th Tuesday of the month** at 7:00 pm

Location: Redeemer Church

1234 Fulkerson Road, Niles, MI 49120

