

St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039

News from Pastor Ken



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I know that everyone has a story for when the weather has been worse or better or different but.... this has been just an odd winter / spring for weather. There was a week when it started in the 60's and ended in the teens. There has been snow in the middle of April. We have had days that included a little winter and summer all in a day of spring. This weather has been teasing us for over a month.

In spite of it all, I cannot believe how excited I am about the possibility of spring. I cannot wait to spend more time in the yard and in the garden. The gardens seem to be alive already. It is like they could not wait any longer, regardless of the weather. I love watching the gardens come alive.

Taking care of the garden has become a series of great life lessons for me. One of those lessons is that I am still learning to balance the hard work of gardening with remembering to take time to enjoy the garden. I find seeking that balance an interesting metaphor for life. We sometimes get so busy doing life that we forget to enjoy life. However, that being said, I am actually thinking about a couple new garden ideas for this year. They are always a work in progress. As always, we will see how the plan unfolds.

I love the sight, sound and smell of spring, full sensory overload. The garden in early spring serves as a wonderful reminder of all the miracles of life. Just like in our own lives, there is a lot of amazing stuff going on, but because it often happens just below the surface, we sometimes forget to notice it. There exists an amazing opportunity for transition, both in our yards and in our lives. Often where and when we least expect it.



Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

So this Easter season I hope you continue to look for the miracles wherever and whenever they may appear, regardless of how big or how small they may be. Remember, this is truly a season of hope and resurrection. As I work in the garden and experience the joy of new life, my hope is that each of us has the opportunity to experience new life spiritually as well.

With all of challenges that life brings, both in the world and in some of our own homes, it is sometimes hard to remember that God is with us always and at work in our lives. I think that is one of the true miracles of Easter and spring. We are reminded with every winter there comes a season of rebirth and new hope. Sometimes it just takes a while for us to notice it.

So, look around, take a deep breath or two, okay, maybe for some of us three, and know that God is at work in your life right now. Even if you cannot see it or feel it yet, God is preparing you for a personal Easter transformation.

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace and there is a place for you here.

And remember, be kind to yourself.
Take care and be well, Peace
Ken

Happy Birthdays in May

5-4 Tom Fisher
5-25 Jimmy Galvin
5-26 Joyce Wiinikairien

Happy Anniversary's in May

5-7 Lonnie & Connie Jones



Military Prayer List

I will be including a list in the newsletter of our men and women in the military, to acknowledge those who serve and to pray for their safety. Please submit your love one's, family member or friend's name, rank and branch of service to be placed on the list.

Josh Bieske
Staff Sgt.
US Air Force

Worship Ministry

**Volunteers Needed
Please sign-up**

Please consider signing up for the ministries of Usher/Greeter, Liturgists and Altar Care.

Prayers For

Sue Gellash	Bob
Rubin	John C.
Ryan	Jessica
Sammy	Kathy
Laura	Donna & Family
Buddy	Lois
Jean	Lauren
John	Nancy
Marge	Peggy
Mike	Mary
Pat	Ally
Abby	Jackson
Jacob	Joy
Roger	Addy-Jean
Gordie	Jim
Lynn	Mary Ann
Holly	Gary
Steve	David
Brinkman Family Ally Demski	
Baby Jackson Sutton	
Carveth and Anderson Family	

Kid's Page

Name: _____

MEMORIAL DAY MEMORIES

Directions: Memorial Day is celebrated in the United States on the last Monday in May. Do you know why Memorial Day is important? Use the information you find at the Web site provided below to answer the questions on this page. Fill in the circle next to each correct answer.

**Web Resources:**

The History of Memorial Day

<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/memorial/index.jsp?page=history>

- At first, May 30 was set aside to honor people who died in which war?

<input type="radio"/> World War I	<input type="radio"/> Revolutionary War	<input type="radio"/> Civil War
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- What was Memorial Day called originally?

<input type="radio"/> Veterans Day	<input type="radio"/> Decoration Day	<input type="radio"/> Remembrance Day
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- Who made the first Memorial Day proclamation?

<input type="radio"/> James Garfield	<input type="radio"/> Lyndon Johnson	<input type="radio"/> John Logan
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- What city has been proclaimed the official birthplace of Memorial Day?

<input type="radio"/> Washington, D.C.	<input type="radio"/> Waterloo, New York	<input type="radio"/> Richmond, Virginia
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- In which year was Memorial Day moved from May 30 to the fourth Monday in May?

<input type="radio"/> 1868	<input type="radio"/> 1866	<input type="radio"/> 1971
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Something to Think About: On Memorial Day this year, how will you honor the men and women who died serving your country?

Learn More: Explore the links at May 30th in History at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/may30.html> to learn more about the history of Memorial Day. Then complete the Memorial Day word search at <http://sunniebunniezz.com/puzzles/memdykws.htm>.



Memorial Day Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

With a sober heart we come before You this Memorial Day. We pause for a moment and call to mind all the men and women who have died in the service of our nation since 1776.

Dear God, please look with mercy on our brave and selfless brothers and sisters, who did not shirk from their task but gave themselves completely to the cause of defending and protecting us all. Bless all who have given their lives for the sake of liberty, and grant them eternal rest with You.

We remember also our brave men and women now serving in our Armed Forces, both at home and abroad. Dear God, send out Your angels to protect them all. Help them discharge their duties honorably and well. Please bring them safely home to their families and loved ones. Please bring Your peace and mercy to our troubled world.

**We ask this, Father, in the name of Jesus, Your Son.
Amen.**

MAY

- May 1 - 9am - Set up and price items for Rummage
- May 2 - Baking Day for Rummage Sale
- May 3 - Rummage Sale 9 am to 3 pm
- Mary Martha will hold their meeting at the Rummage Sale.
- May 4 - Rummage Sale 9 am to 3 pm
- May 5 - Rummage Sale. Fill-A-Bag for \$2.00. After the sale we will be boxing up unsold items to be distributed to various organizations. 9 am to 12 noon
- May 6 - 11 am - Morning Worship Service with Holy Communion, Sunday School and Coffee Hour after worship.
- May 7 - 10 am - We will be meeting at church to tour Special Dreams Farm at 10:30. Anyone interested in seeing the farm is welcome to join us.
2:30 pm - God's Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.
- May 9 - 7pm Discussion Group about The Lord's Prayer
- May 13 - 11 am - Mother's Day Worship Service
Sunday school. This will be the **last** day for Sunday school until the fall.
- May 14 - 2:30 pm - God's Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.
6:30 pm - Council Meets.
- May 16 - 7pm Discussion Group about The Lord's Prayer
- May 20 - 11 am - Pentecost Worship Service with Holy Communion. Confirmation Service for Emma Forest and Jacob Hincerick.
- May 21 - 2:30 pm - God's Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.
- May 23 - 7pm Discussion Group about The Lord's Prayer
- May 27 - 11 am - Morning Worship Service
- May 28 - Memorial Day.
God's Grace Through Prayer will not be meeting
- May 30 - 7pm Discussion Group about The Lord's Prayer

Reports and Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for March, 2018

Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 87,203.23
Receipts	4,319.17
Expenses	<u>4,950.12</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 86,572.28

Savings Account	\$ 57,420.70
Savings Account-Flagstar	33,731.79
Checking Account	<u>3,872.55</u>
	\$ 95,025.04
Expenses from Fah's Savings	<u>8,452.76</u>
Total	\$ 86,572.38

St. John's CD	\$ 8,753.27
Fah's Endowment Savings	<u>2,368.91</u>
Total	\$ 11,122.18

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorothy Schultz
Treasurer

St. John's United Church of Christ
Council Meeting
March 12, 2018

Present: Kurt Schultz, Dorothy Schultz, Loretta Prange, Lynn Reh, Miriam Guyor, Carolyn Hosford, Lynn Andrews, Pastor Ken Gadd
Absent: Georgia Phelan, Denise Beattie
Call to order at 6:31 p.m. Opening prayer by Rev. Gadd

- I. Minutes of the February 12, 2018 meeting presented by Miriam. Motion by Lynn Reh to accepted minutes as presented with the amendment that Wednesday Lenten Services and Study are to be held at St. John's, not St. James, and the organists also receive a 1099 for tax purposes. Second by Loretta and carried. The minutes of February 2 special meeting were also presented. Motion by Dorothy, second by Lynn to accept as presented. Carried.
- II. Reports
 - A. Treasurer's Report presented by Dorothy. Motion by Miriam to accept as presented. Second by Lynn Reh. Carried.
 - B. Financial Secretary's Report presented by Loretta. Motion by Lynn Reh to accept as presented. Second by Miriam. Carried.

Reports and Minutes Continued

- C. Mary Martha Guild
 - 1. Lynn Reh reports that work continues on the Rummage Sale. Pat Kaufman is making a baby afghan to be raffled.
 - 2. Mary Martha Guild will provide Easter lilies again this year.
 - 3. The April 12th meeting will include a special guest from Special Dreams Farms. The Guild may do an outreach there in the future. Rev. Gadd suggested that this could be a joint venture with St. James.
- D. Sunday School. Nothing at this time.
- E. Pastor's Report
 - 1. Rev. Gadd would like to see St. James and St. John's do some outreach together, such as at the above mentioned Special Dreams Farm.
 - 2. Rev. Gadd has been with us for six months. He reports that he is pleased to be here and is enjoying his service with us.
 - 3. The Wednesday Lenten Service and Study is going well.
- F. Building and Grounds
 - 1. Miriam made a motion that Kurt purchase a new Bunn coffee maker for \$253.52. Second by Carolyn. Carried.
 - 2. Kurt has found burner parts for our stove and will replace them.
 - 3. We will continue investigating gutter work that may be needed.
 - 4. Kurt will get quotes on soffet work that needs to be done.
- III. Unfinished Business. Nothing at this time.
- IV. New Business
 - A. In the past, St. Mark's had agreed to let the Washington Life Center use our building as an Emergency Shelter if needed. Loretta made a motion to allow the Head Start program and the Seniors at the Washington Life Center to use our building as a temporary Emergency Shelter if needed. Second by Miriam. Carried.
We will look into a location for a key to be kept in case of emergency.
 - B. Lynn Reh suggested we create a "Wish List" for items needed for the church that congregants could contribute to (such as the Bunn coffee maker, card tables, etc.) This list could be published in the newsletter and bulletin. All agreed this is a good idea.

Motion to adjourn by Dorothy at 7:30 p.m. Second by Carolyn.
Carried.

Closing prayer by Rev. Gadd.

Submitted by Miriam Guyor, Secretary

Reports and Minutes Continued

Mary Martha Minutes from the meeting held on March 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by Loretta. Linda read a couple of devotions.

Members present: Lois, Loretta, Linda, Brenda, Bea, and Lynn.

Minutes from the January and February meetings were read by Lynn. Motion was made by Brenda, seconded by Linda to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Lynn. The current balance in the checking account is \$151.14. Motion made by Lois, seconded by Brenda to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried. Brenda paid her dues for 2018.

Old Business - Lois contacted Special Dreams Farm regarding doing volunteer work. A representative from there will be coming to our April 12 meeting at 1:30 to inform us about the work done at the farm and volunteer options available for us. Linda and Carolyn will deliver the soup we had left from our Free Lunch Program to St. Martin's church for use in their Soup Kitchen.

New Business - Pat Kaufman is knitting a baby afghan to be raffled at the Rummage Sale. Price of tickets will be one ticket for \$2, or 3 tickets for \$5. Other details were discussed regarding the rummage sale, Loretta will take care of the advertising, we will only have the parking lot door open to the church, bake sale will be in the back of the Fellowship Room. Lois made a motion, seconded by Bea for Mary Martha to purchase two Easter Lilies for the altar for Easter Sunday. Motion carried.

Motion made by Lynn, seconded by Bea to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Reh
Secretary/Treasurer

Special Dream Farms

The Mary Martha Guild is looking into doing volunteer work with Special Dreams Farm. Special Dreams Farm, located on Fred Moore Hwy. in St. Clair Township, is a real working farm for adults with developmental disabilities. On Thursday, April 12, we met with Nancy Ulrich who is the Program Director at the Farm. Our next step in the process is to visit the farm. On Monday, May 7, at 10 am, we will be meeting at church to go to the farm and take a tour and see first-hand the work being done there. All church members, young and old, men and women, who may be interested in this worthwhile project are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please see Lois Weichert, Loretta Prange or Lynn Reh

Pantry Box

God's Grace Through Prayer, our St. John's Prayer Group, is sponsoring a Pantry Box. The box is located in the Fellowship Room. We are accepting any non-perishable items. These will be donated to the Downriver Helping Hands and other organizations in the area. Please help support those in need in our Community. Thank you!

Let's Recycle

Watch for the new blue recycling bins at St. John's! We will be recycling paper (weekly service programs included) and other paper.

Look for that bin near the doors to the Sanctuary. We'll also be recycling plastic, like water bottles and plastic cups. That bin will be near the coffee station. Let's tread lightly on God's earth- help us go green at St. John's and recycle your paper and plastic!

Scripture Reading for May 2018

Sunday, May 6
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48
Ps 98
1 Jn 5: 9-13
Jn 15: 9-17
Friends Together

Sunday, May 20
Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2: 1-21 OR Ezek 37: 1-14
Ps 104: 24-34, 35b
Rom 8: 22-27 or Acts 2: 1-21
Jn 15: 26-27: 16:4b-15
Spirit for All

Sunday, May 13
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26
Ps 1
1 Jn 5: 9-13
Jn 17: 6-19
Guided in Prayer

Sunday, May 27
Trinity Sunday
Isa 6: 1-8
Ps 29
Rom 8: 12-17
Jn 3: 1-17
Mysterious Encounter

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MAY NEWSLETTER