St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039

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Happy New Year!

The New Year can give us a sense of optimism, opportunity and excitement for the days ahead. It is as if turning to the first page of the new calendar allows us to set aside the challenges, disappointments and hurts of the past year and look forward to a fresh beginning with hope.

That is exactly what this past month of Advent and Christmas are all about. Maybe that is why the church calendar always begins approximately a month before our standard secular calendar year. It gives us a little extra time to plan and prepare for this new beginning. It was good this past Advent spending time in active prayer and meditation discerning what God has called me (and us) to do and who God has called me (and us) to be.

As we look toward our New Year I encourage us to consider our individual and personal gifts and opportunities and to actively participate in our own growth and sustainability as well as our community of faith. This may include planning and/or growing a ministry, reaching out to those in need, inviting friends and family to attend worship, reaching out to former members or your unchurched neighbors to visit us, encouraging generous giving, and sharing your story of faith in the community.

The reality is that this family of faith needs and more importantly calls you to be an active part in its vital role in the community and it cannot do it without you. Just as Christ could not carry on his ministry without his disciples, we cannot carry on without your active participation in spreading the good news. This approach to ministry more closely reflects the way Christ’s own ministry was carried out. It creates wonderful opportunities for all to participate each according to our individual gifts of time, energy, talent,

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# News from Pastor Ken



The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. A school newsletter can be a great way to develop a strong relationship with parents.

First choose a short title for your newsletter— something like "School News," or “Back to School.” As you choose the title, also take time to think about the newsletter’s theme. What important messages do you want to send parents and families?

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish the newsletter and its length.

Use the body of your school newsletter to keep parents apprised of major assignments and class events, as well as any of school district news. Also share news for specific grade levels, and tell parents about upcoming events, new faculty, and school policies.

## Dear Parents

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**Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued**

treasure and other resources as we are able in various and appropriate ministries.

As we speak of gifts, January 6th is Epiphany, a time when the wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus. I so much enjoy the whole idea of Epiphany and all the symbolism that goes with it. First, there was the arrival of the wise men on Epiphany. They traveled across what was then the entire world on faith, following a star to a place where, when they arrived, they were struck by a vision of hope and love so simple and yet so profound that it changed their lives. During this season of Epiphany, we too are invited to come to that place where our lives may be changed forever.

In the first week of Epiphany we also celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ. It is in that very same baptism that we too are baptized and called to be disciples each of us according to our gifts and abilities.

This is for me an exciting time. A time when the world so desperately needs to see hope, so desperately needs to see the love of Jesus. We are called to be the face of Christ, to be that light for the world to see. I think to myself “what an overwhelming task” but I realize that we do not go alone nor are we expected to do it all. We go knowing that God stands before us and behind us, that God will give us the words to speak and the strength to do God’s will each according to our gifts and abilities. We are called to reach out to change the life of one person, who will change the life of one person, who will change the world. I always remember this wonderful quote “We are not called to do everything but we are called to do something.’

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are surrounded by God’s unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace. There is a place for you here.

May this Epiphany season fill you with hope, recognizing and acting on our call to be disciples.

Happy New Year!! Take care and be well, Peace

Ken

**Anniversaries in January**

## Happy Birthdays in January

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1/21 Peggy Galvin

1/30 Ron Duetsch

1/24 Tom & Brenda Fisher

**Worship Ministry**



**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

**Volunteers Needed**

**Please sign-up**

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

**Prayers For ……**

Joy Brenda

Beth Jim & Karen

Don & Lois Trisha

Tamara Ben

Gary Gordie

Alma MaryAnn

Barbara Mike

Lauren Helen

Claudette Jim

Steve Joan

Judy Lester Barb David

Debbie Carolyn

Betty World Peace

Family of St. Johns and St. James

**Window Treatments Fund**

The Council has established a fund for Window Treatments.  If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make a note on your envelope indicating the donation to the Window Treatment Fund.  Watch the Sunday Bulletin and newsletters for further information regarding this.  Thank you.

**Kid’s Page**

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**New Year’s Poem**

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**Look For The Good**

In the New Year, let's resolve
 to get less stressed, upset, anxious
 about things over which we have no control.
 Lets’ have a narrower focus on our lives,
 loving and helping our family and friends,
 making our community a better place to live,
 to create peace and contentment.

In the New Year, let's resolve
 to pay less attention to depressing stories
 on TV, in magazines and newspapers,
 and to stop focusing on what we want
 that we haven't got,
 instead of appreciating
 the many blessings we do have.

In the New Year, let's look for the good.
 We may have to search
 through a mass of negative media,
 but the good is there,
 all around us.

Wishing you a New Year filled with good,
 engulfed in serenity and happiness!

**Meeting Minutes / Reports**

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**Mary Martha Minutes**

Mary Martha News

**Christmas Party**

On Wednesday, December 12, the Mary Martha Guid held its annual Christmas Party.  There were 21 people in attendance. A fun time was had by all. The food and fellowship was fantastic, as always.  We collected $300, which will be donated to a family in need.

**Fun and Games Night**Our Saturday, November 10, we had our first Fun & Games night.  There were 14 people present and $114 was collected and donated to St John’s Window Treatment
Fund.  Beginning on January 12, 2019, we will hold future Fun & Games Nights on the second Saturday of each month from 6-9 pm.  All proceeds will go to the Window
Treatment Fund. Look for future announcements in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Reh

Secretary/Treasurer

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**Meeting Minutes/Reports Continued**

St. Johns United Church of Christ

Council Meeting

November 12, 2018

Present: Lynn Reh, Loretta Prange, Kurt Schultz, Dorothy Schultz, Carolyn Hosford, Georgia Phelan, Miriam Guyor, Rev. Ken Gadd

Absent: Lynn Andrews, Denise Beattie

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. Opening prayer by Rev. Gadd.

1. Minutes of the October 8, 2018 meeting presented by Miriam. Motion by Georgia to accept minutes as presented. Second by Dorothy. Carried.
2. Reports
3. Treasurer’s Report presented by Dorothy. Motion by Georgia to accept report as presented. Second by Miriam. Carried.
4. Financial Secretary’s Report presented by Loretta. Motion by Lynn R to accept report as presented. Second by Carolyn. Carried.
5. Mary Martha Guild
6. Lynn R reported that the first Fun and Games Night raised $114. Motion was made by Lynn to create a sub fund in the building account for window treatments and to use funds from Game Nights for this purpose. Second by Carolyn. Carried.
7. The Guild will hold Fun and Games Nights monthly beginning in January.
8. Unused items from our former church building as well as the new church were sold at the rummage sale. The guild will donate $300 from the sale of those items to the window treatment fund.
9. God’s Grace Through Prayer group. At their next meeting on Nov. 19 at 2:30, there will be a presentation by Judy Lester’s daughter, Pam Hunt, about her trip to the Holy Land. All are welcome to attend.
10. Sunday School. The Christmas program date has been changed to Dec. 16 and will be presented at the beginning of the service.
11. Pastor’s Report
12. Ken asked for input on Christmas service. Motion was made by Lynn R to have Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. Second by Loretta. Carried. St. James will have Christmas Eve services at 7 and 11 p.m. and all are welcome to attend.
13. Ken suggested that we have the liturgist or other interested congregant light the Advent Candle during services. Dorothy will make a sign up sheet.
14. The Health and Vitality Team sign up is completed. The council suggests that meetings begin after the first of the year. Ken will get these scheduled.
15. Ken suggested that we adopt a family for Christmas in cooperation with the St. James congregation. Council is in favor of this, and Carolyn will contact Mary Galvin for a suggestion of a local family.

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1. Ken will be planning Confirmation this year and it will be held on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019.
2. Ken will be contacting potential new members and will be picking a service after the first of the year to welcome them to the congregation.
3. Building and Grounds
4. Contracted work is in the process of being done on the exterior of the church. Georgia will contact the contractors and ask them to change some of the outside light bulbs.
5. Kurt reports that the boiler is making odd noises. Dorothy will contact Hopkins Heating and Cooling to check on this.
6. Unfinished Business
7. Kurt had the piano checked out by a tuner. He tuned it but reported that it had inherent damage that cannot be fixed. We will begin looking for a replacement.
8. A local piano/voice teacher has asked to use our church and piano/organ for a recital for her students on Feb. 16. Katie Phelan is her contact. She will be told of issues with our piano and invited to check it out first.
9. New Business

Christmas gifts for our pastor, organist, groundskeeper, housekeeper and secretary. Georgia made the motion to make the gift amounts the same as last year. Second by Lynn R and carried. Dorothy will look up the specific amounts from last year.

Motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. by Lynn R. Second by Loretta. Carried.

Closing prayer by Georgia Phelan.

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**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer’s Report as of November, 2018

 Beginning Cash                       -    $101,911.84

        Receipts                           -          3,874.85

        Expenses                         -          9,571.33

Ending Cash                                 $  96,215.36

 Cash on Hand

       Savings Account                -    $ 57,459.26

       Savings Account Flagstar  -       33,754.36

       Checking Account.            -          5,011.74

                       Total                  -     $ 96,215.36

      CD Account                       -     $    8,770.94

      Fah’s Savings                                2,267.87

                                                     $    11,038.81

Total Cash on Hand.              -      $ 107,254.17

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy Schultz

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**January Activities**

Sunday, January 6 - 11am - Morning Worship with Holy Communion.                                                                             Coffee Hour following Worship.

                                              Reports are due for the Annual Meeting.

Monday, January 7 - 1pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room. We will be watching the movie, “The Shack."   Everyone is welcome to join us.

Thursday, January 10 -12:30pm - Mary Martha meets.  Bring a sandwich.  Coffee and dessert will be provided.  Our hostess will be Loretta.

Saturday, January 12 - 6-9pm - Fun and Games Night in the Fellowship Room.  Cost is $5 per person/$8 per family.

Sunday, January 13 - 11am - Morning Worship and Sunday School.

Monday, January 14 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.

                                       6:30pm - Council meets in the Fellowship Room.

Sunday, January 20 - 11am - Morning Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School. Annual Meeting following Worship service.

                                              Potluck Dinner following the Annual Meeting.

Monday, January 21 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.

Sunday, January 27 - 11am -   Morning Worship and Sunday School.

Monday, January 28 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.

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**Additional Activities**

**Pantry Box**

God’s Grace Through Prayer, our St. John’s Prayer Group, is sponsoring a Pantry Box.  The box is 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!

 **Special Dreams Farm**

We will be doing community service with Special Dreams Farm. Special Dreams Farm, located at 6524 Fred Moore Hwy., St. Clair Township, MI 48079 is a real working farm for adults with developmental disabilities. We will be collecting paper products, such as paper towels, napkins, paper plates, toilet paper, Kleenex tissues, plastic silverware to be delivered to the farm.  Look for the box in the Fellowship Room marked for Special Dreams Farm Donations.  We will be accepting cash donations, as well.

The Farm has a store which is open to the public to purchase home grown products (flowers, fruits, vegetables, eggs) and crafts made by the farm workers.  If you’re in the area, stop by and visit.  You’ll be surprised at what’s happening at Special Dreams Farm.

**Council 2018 Annual Reports Due**

Reports are due to Roberta Fisher, Secretary by Monday, January 7, 2019. Please send electronically if possible. Send to Roberta via email at Rfisher@gaddbiz.com.

**St. Johns United Church of Christ Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of St. John’s United Church of Christ will be held on January 20, 2019 immediately following Morning Worship. Following the meeting, we will have a Potluck Dinner.  The church will provide the meat.  Sign-up sheets will be available in the Fellowship Room after the first of the year.

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!

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**Scripture Reading for January 2019**

**Sunday, January 6 Sunday, January 13**

**Epiphany The Baptism of Christ**

Isa 60: 1-6 Isa 43: 1-7

Ps 72: 1-7, 10-14 Ps 29

Eph 3: 1-12 Acts 8: 14-17

Matt 2: 1-12 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

**Where is the child? Affirmed by Love**

**Sunday, January 20 Sunday, January 27**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa 62: 1-5 Neh 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Ps 36: 5-10 Ps 19

1 Cor `1: 1-11 1 Cor `1: 12-31a

John 2: 1-11 Like 4: 14-21

**Extravagant Sign**  **Good News, Good Ways**



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JANUARY

NEWSLETTER