St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039

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I love March if for no other reason than it’s the month that officially starts spring, even though it may not feel like it.

Many of us struggle to get through winter and what has seemed like endless cold, grey days of winter. Just a couple days ago, as I was walking up the drive way looking at my muddy dormant gardens and I felt the warm sunshine on my face for a few moments but then again today the afternoon clouds and cold took over. What a feeling of hope I had even though I knew in my heart there is more than a little winter left. That is what I like about March. Somehow, we know that regardless of what winter weather is left to come that spring will not be denied. I wait with anticipation as the snow melts to see the little buds starting to appear and the daffodil shoots pushing up. And various church members keeping me posted on robin sightings. There is hope.

There is hope and preparation for greater things to come. That is what this month in the church calendar is about as well. This year March is full of Lent starting March 6th with Ash Wednesday. Lent provides us a wonderful opportunity to consider and pray about how we can get closer to being the person God would have us to be and to consider what it is God would have us to do.

Many consider Lent simply a time of giving up something we like for a few days, but I think that just as Jesus spent time in the wilderness contemplating his ministry, we too are called to spend time considering our own ministry. I encourage us all to use this time for planning and preparing. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation. I invite you not to simply give up something but to take time to prepare your spirit for an exciting new journey. Here are a couple suggestions. Spend an extra few minutes each

https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity/

# 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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**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.

day in prayer and meditation. Read a book on spirituality, commit to reading the Upper Room or Daily Bread every morning with your coffee (it’s only a small page), read one proverb every day from the bible (there are 31), commit an anonymous daily and intentional act of kindness, you get the idea. Prepare yourself for what God has planned for you. Again, I encourage you to not just “give up” something but to add a little something that will feed your spirit.

Although most of us think of Lent as not an uplifting time of year I would like us to think about Lent the same way gardeners think about March. It is a time of thinking, planning, and preparing for spring. It is a time of great anticipation. We dream about and prepare for new growth in our gardens, we remember projects from last year that we want to finish, we sharpen our tools and start ordering seed. We remember the exciting successes of springs past and prepare to start this spring full of expectation and optimism.

This is my vision for us. As we begin our journey into Lent, let us not think of this as a season of spiritual winter but rather a time of preparing for our own spiritual spring, both personally and as a community of faith.

Remember, whoever you are and wherever you are at 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.

Take care and be well, Peace

Ken

**Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued**

**Anniversaries in March**

## Happy Birthdays in March

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3/10 Ron & Lisa Andrews

3/14 Jacob Hencherick

3/14 Matthew Phelan

3/28 Lonnie Jones

3/28 Jack Leonard

**Worship Ministry**

**Volunteers Needed**

**Please sign-up**

**Ash Wednesday** Potluck dinner 6pm at St. James, bring a soup, salad or sandwiches to share, Service at 7pm.

**Lenten Discussion Group**

Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27th and April 3rd. The subject is Spiritual Gifts. Discussion Group meetings will begin at 7pm.

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



**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

**Prayers For ……**

Clem & Family Joy

Jim Karen

Don Lois

Bobby Lisa

Larry Brenda

Stacey Tenyer Family

Mike Debbie

Mark & Family Andrew & Family

Neil & Family Ann & Family

Ben Loretta

Tamara Dan

Judy Jack

Barb Davd

Claudette Pastor Ken

Families of St. John and St. James

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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**Kid’s Page**



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**St. Patrick’s Day Poem**



**Meeting Minutes / Reports**

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St. John’s United Church of Christ

Council Meeting

January 14, 2019

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

Absent: Lynn Reh, Denise Beattie

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

1. Minutes of the December 12, 2018 meeting presented by Miriam Guyor. Motion by Georgia to accept minutes as presented. Second by Dorothy. Carried.
2. Reports
3. Treasure’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 Miriam to accept report as presented. Second by Carolyn. Carried.
5. Mary Martha Guild
6. The Rummage and Bake sale will be held on May 2, 3 and 4th, with set up on April 28.
7. Election of officers was held. The same officers will remain as in 2018.
8. The Fun and Games Nights will continue on the second Saturday of each month. They will not be held during the months of June, July and August.
9. Sunday School – no report at this time.
10. Pastor’s Report
11. Health and Vitality Team. They are considering which day of the week to hold meetings.
12. Ken has the list of those visitors interested in joining our congregation. He will reach out to them to arrange a meeting.
13. Ash Wednesday Service will be held at St. James at 7 p.m. Soup and salad will be served before the service.
14. Lenten Studies will be held here at St. John’s on Wednesdays.
15. Good Friday Services will be at noon at St. James and 7 p.m. at St. John’s.
16. Reviewed election of officers to be held at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 20. Miriam and Kurt will be going off the council, Lynn Reh will finish Denise’s term (through January 2020.) We did not get any interested candidates and have determined that council membership will go from 9 members to 6.
17. Monthly check on concerns: Per council, all is going well. Glad to be getting new members.

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1. Building and Grounds
2. All exterior work has been completed. Netherlands has been sent their last payment.
3. Piano. The upright piano cost $300 to move, so the baby grand will probably cost more. We will look for someone who may want it and offer to split the cost of moving.
4. Erin Moran’s vocal/piano class recital will be held at St. John’s on Feb. 16. The new piano should be set up by then and the former piano will hopefully be in a new home.
5. We need a new cleaning person for the church. A notice will be put in the bulletin and newsletter at both St. John’s and St. James.
6. Ken will be using the room off the sacristy for his office.
7. New business – none at this time.

Dorothy made the motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Second by Georgia. Carried.

Closing prayer by Rev. Gadd.

Submitted by Miriam Guyor

Secretary

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**Treasurer’s Report**

As of January 2019

Beginning Cash Balance                               $91,007.57

Receipts                                                          $4,187.42

Expenses                                                         $10,510.05

Ending Cash Balance                                     $84,684.94

Savings                                                            $41,168.63

Flagstar Savings                                             $33,760.00

Checking                                                         $9,756.31

Total                                                                $84,684.94                                 $ 84,684.94

CD                                                                    $8,781.87

Fah Savings                                                    $2,369.91

Total                                                               $11,151.78                                $11,151.78

                                                                          Grand Total                             $95,836.72

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy Schultz

Treasurer

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**Mary Martha Minutes**

Mary Martha Minutes from the meeting held on January 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Loretta.

Members present:  Linda, Carolyn, Brenda, Loretta, Marian, Beatrice and Tamara.

Correspondence received was read by Linda.  We received a Thank You from a New Dawn for our donation and we also received a Christmas card from Marilee.

No minutes or Treasurer’s report were read due to Lynn’s absence.  Dues were collected from all members present.

Old Business - Fun and Games night will be the second Saturday of each month from 6-9 pm, with the exception of the months of June, July and December when we will not be getting together.

New Business - Linda mentioned switching our meeting date from Thursday to another day of the week.  It was decided to discuss this at a later date, when all members are present. Hostess schedule was made for 2019.  Rummage Sale dates will be:  Set up - Monday and Tuesday, April 29 and 30, Baking Day, May 1,  Sale dates, Thursday and Friday, May 2 and 3 (9am to 3pm) and Saturday, May 4 (9am to 12pm).  Fill-a-bag will be on Saturday.  Motion made by Brenda, seconded by Bea, to increase the cost of fill-a-bag to $3.00.  Motion carried.  Carolyn made a motion, seconded by Linda, to keep the same officers as last year.  Motion carried.  Officers are:  Loretta-President, Carolyn-Vice President, and Lynn-Secretary?Treasurer. Appreciation Dinner will be on January 20.  Nelson and Loretta are donating ham.  The church will provide chicken.  Sign-up sheet will be available this Sunday for side dishes. Question was raised as to how many cookbooks we still have.  Tamara motioned to offer a 1/2-hour monthly visit to MediLodge  (to visit with patients with no family) or SNAP (to play with/socialize with pets) to get Mary Martha/St. John’s out into the public.  Motion carried.  We are also looking for other suggestions to do the same.

Motion made by Tamara, seconded by Brenda to adjourn the meeting at  1:55pm.  Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Gorence

Acting Secretary

**March Events and Activities**

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Sunday, March 3 -11am - Morning Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School Coffee Hour following Worship.

Monday,  March 4 - 2:30 pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.  Everyone is welcome to join us.

Wednesday, March 6 - 7pm - Ash Wednesday Service at St. James.  Soup and salad will be served before the service.

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

Sunday, March 10 - 11am - Morning Worship and Sunday School.

Monday,  March 11 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.

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

Wednesday, March 13 - 7pm - Lenten Studies at St. John’s.

Thursday, March 14 - 12:30pm - Mary Martha Guild meets for lunch and meeting.

 Bring a sandwich.  Dessert and Beverage will be provided. Linda Leonard is hostess. All women of the church are welcome to join us!

Sunday, March 17 - 11am - Morning Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School.

Monday, March 18 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.

Wednesday, March 20 - 7pm - Lenten Studies at St. John’s.

Sunday, March 24 - 11am -  Morning Worship and Sunday School.

 St. James corn Beef dinner at Perch Point 4pm - $12.00 per person, children under 12 free with a free will donation, cash bar, raffles, bake sale

Monday, March 25 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.

Wednesday, March 27 - 7pm - Lenten Studies at St. John’s.

Sunday, March 31 - 11am - Morning Worship with Healing Service and Sunday School.

**Additional Activities**

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**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.

**Scripture Reading for March 2019**

**Sunday, March 3 Sunday, March 10**

**Transfiguration First Sunday of Lent**

Ex 34: 29-35 Deut 26: 1-11

Ps 99 Ps 91: 1-2, 9-16

2 Cor 3: 12-4:2 Rom 10: 8b-13

Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43a) Luke 4: 1-13

**Astounding Glory Wilderness Companions**

**Sunday, March 17 Sunday, March 24**

**Second Sunday of Lent Third Sunday of Lent**

Gen 15: 1-2, 17-18 Isa 55: 1-9

Ps 27 Ps 63: 1-8

Phil 3: 17-4:1 1 Cor 10: 1-13

Luke 13: 31-35 or Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43a) Luke 13: 1-9

**Strong and Tender**  **Open Invitation**

 **Sunday, March 31**

 **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Josh 5: 9-12

 Ps 32

 2 Cor 5: 16-21

 Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

 **Embracing Love**



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We’re on the Web!

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March

NEWSLETTER