St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039



Happy New Year!

WOW! It doesn’t feel like that long ago that the idea of the year 2020 seemed futuristic. Well here we are, and the future is now! For me there is something about the New Year that speaks to a time of hope and new beginnings.

The New Year gives me a sense of optimism and excitement for what may lie ahead. It is like turning to the first page of the calendar allows us to set aside the challenges, disappointments and hurts of the past year and look forward to a fresh beginning. It is in fact what our past month of Advent and Christmas has been 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 of active prayer and meditation discerning what I feel God has called me (and us) to do and who God has called me (and us) to be. I hope that you too took time for some spiritual reflection and nurturing your relationship with God.

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

The reality is that we need and more importantly call you to be an active part in our important 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.

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

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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

**Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued**

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This approach to ministry more closely reflects the way Christ’s own ministry was carried out. It creates wonderful opportunities for all to participate, as we are able, each according to our individual gifts of time, energy, talent, treasure and other resources in various and appropriate ministries.

As we speak of gifts, Jan 6 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, Jan 6. 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.

We also in the first weeks of Epiphany 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 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. We might think to ourselves “what an overwhelming task” but 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 and us with hope, recognizing and acting on our call to be disciples.

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

Ken

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## Happy Birthdays in January

**Anniversaries in January**

1/24 Brenda & Tom Fisher

1/30 Ron Duetsch

**Worship Ministry**

**Prayers For ……**

Nancy Maynard

Albert John

Scott Lynn

Steve H. Mike S.

Biscorner Family Donald

Carolyn Nick

Becca Jake

Bill Gordie

Bob Shelley

Rita Jim & Karen

Tamara & Tom Mr. Amella

Stephanie Don & Patti

Loretta & Nelson Marion & Debbie Harvey & Lynn       Jeanette

Nicole Don

Rev. Reh Pat

Tom Brenda

Mariam Becky

Joy Dan & Lori

Don & Lois Leo

Gene

Families of St. John & St. James

**Volunteers Needed**

**Please sign-up**

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

Alex Tite Private US Army

Joshua Bieske Sgt. First Class US Air Force

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**Kid’s Page**



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**Wishes for the New Year**



In the New Year,

we wish you the best year you’ve ever had,

and that each New Year,

will be better than the last,

May you realize your fondest dreams,

and take time to recognize and enjoy,

each and every blessing,

Happy New Year,
And many more!

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**Meeting Minutes / Reports**

St. Johns United Church of Christ

Council Meeting

November 18, 2019

Council Members: Georgia Phelan, President; Lynn Reh, Vice President; Dorothy Schultz, Treasurer; Loretta Prange, Financial Secretary; Lynn Andrews, Secretary, Carolyn Hosford, Council Member, Pastor: Rev. Ken Gadd

**Minutes**

1. Call to order 6:40 p.m. (Georgia Phelan taking minutes)
2. Opening Prayer: Lynn Reh
3. Roll Call

Present: Georgia Phelan, Lynn Reh, Dorothy Schultz, Loretta Prange

Excused: Lynn Andrews, Carolyn Hosford, Rev. Ken Gadd

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Dorothy to approve with these additions: 6.f.3 Kitchen plumbing; 8.c. SCC Right to Life, 8.d. Nominating, Committee, 8.e. Christmas Gifts, 8.f. Adopt a Family for Christmas

Second by Lynn. **Motion passed**.

1. Minutes of last meeting

Motion by Dorothy to approve with addition of 3.E.3 Blue Christmas Service on December 22, 7 p.m. at St. James

Second by Lynn. **Motion passed**

1. Standing Reports
	1. Treasurer’s Report
		1. QuickBooks program; need Ken’s input. Still hoping to have by January 1.

-Dorothy is moving $5,000 from savings to checking, partially to cover the increase in insurance for 2020. Premium is going from $1,655.87 for 2019 to over $2,900 for 2020. Dorothy will call our insurer and ask why the big increase. She will bring our current bill on Sunday for us to review.

-It was discussed that in Summaries and Special Funds, “Roof” should be in its own category; this will be corrected.

-The Hurricane Relief and Christmas funds will be expended next month and line items removed.

-Sound System monies will be moved to the Building Fund and Sound System line item removed.

 Motion by Lynn to approve Treasurer’s Report

 Second by Georgia Phelan. **Motion passed**

* 1. Financial Secretary’s Report
		1. Financial Committee report (2020 budget) This item was not discussed

Motion by Lynn to accept October financial report

Second by Dorothy. **Motion passed**

* 1. Mary Martha Guild

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MM has $2,000 to disperse. Council President and Pastor were asked for input on new organizations to support. Georgia had several; Ken concurred with those and suggested focusing on fewer groups to maximize impact of donations. MM decided to stick with their five current groups and not add any new ones. Each existing group will get $400.

MM will hold their Christmas party on December 11. The donation(s) made from their collection that day remains to be determined.

* 1. Sunday School

The Christmas program will be December 22. Because of families’ conflicting schedules with church, a simplified program of three songs and their histories will be presented.

* 1. Pastor’s Report – No report
	2. Building and Grounds
		1. North entry threshold- minor repair done

Contractor, Joe Griffor, recommends just replacing the weather stripping as needed, which he did. Because of poor construction of the threshold, repairs would be temporary, with heat/cold continuing to displace the threshold. Send a thank you note to contractor. (Georgia will do this)

* + 1. Steeple replacement

Netherlands Construction was contacted and told to proceed with replacement. No action as of today. There is some concern as to current status of steeple. Roof itself should be fine until work is done. Georgia will stay on this.

* + 1. Kitchen plumbing; no bill received

Georgia will contact Tim Kelly, the plumber. If he doesn’t charge us, a thank you note will be sent.

* + 1. We’ve received Terry’s current bill for lawn care. He has included a proposal for snow/ice removal for this winter. He’s asking for $75 per push for plowing and $60 for salting. We believe this is the same as last year.

Motion by Lynn to approve the proposal.

Second by Dorothy. **Motion passed**

Notes from Kurt Schultz:

Suggests replacing community room thermostat; about $20. Current one is easily bumped/changed. Note: It was suggested that sometime in the future we may want to consider a locking one.

Suggests replacing 2 boiler valves at about $100 for both (three others will need future replacement)

Suggests replacing the projector motherboard for about $70. This was destroyed in the lightning strike.

Lynn made a motion to approve replacement of these items at a cost not to exceed $250.

Second by Loretta. **Motion passed**

Loretta noted that there is a substance in our water. She showed how it settles and solidifies in the bottom of the coffee carafes. Georgia will ask the plumber about this when she talks to him.

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1. Unfinished Business
	1. Chili Potato Dinner Report. Georgia presented her report to date, which includes all but very minor additional income. Because not all deposits were made before the current financial reports were done, we can’t rectify final amounts until next month. That said, final profit will be about $1,360. 10% of this will be donated to Our Church’s Greater Missions. It should be noted that $947 of this amount came from donations directed to the steeple replacement, not the dinner. It was discussed that subsequent dinners won’t have the steeple issue to spur participation. Thank You letters were sent to the Voice and Times Herald newspapers.
2. New Business
	1. Page 1. Security and Emergency Procedures

These were reviewed. Concern was focused on the first item, which is not now being done- locking both doors at the start of service. If we do this, late-comers can’t get in. We need to discuss further and determine how to address this. Install doorbell? Lock doors at 11:10? Put on next agenda.

It was determined final procedures should be shared, via scheduler (Miriam), with other users of the building.

Filled-out directory info forms, with emergency contacts, should be kept in the church office.

Page 2. Emergency Medical Procedures

Two corrections were made to this document:

* + - 1. #2 “…healthcare persons AND family…” as opposed to OR
			2. #6 Change to read “A follow up call will be made to the family BY OUR PASTOR to inquire…”. This will clarify intent of the sentence.
	1. Website updates? Facebook? It was speculated this is something which may be addressed via the Health & Vitality discussions.
	2. SCC Right to Life newsletter/member application. No interest was shown in joining
	3. Nominating Committee. Georgia will serve on this committee and needs a second member. It was determined this process should start now. We have three Council members with expiring terms: Loretta, Lynn Reh, and Dorothy (Treasurer). All are second terms, so they are term-limited out per our by-laws. We are also several members short to begin with, so this is a critical concern.
	4. Christmas Gifts

Annual gifts and amounts will remain the same as 2019: Pastor Ken $200, Organists/Catherine & Diane $100 each, Custodian/John $100, Birdie $100, Grounds/Terry $100. This totals $700.

Motion by Lynn to approve this amount.

Second by Loretta. **Motion passed**

* 1. Adopt a Family for Christmas

Mary Gave, Helping Hands, contacted us with a family needing assistance this year. It was decided to adopt this family. Georgia has contact info. Lynn will check with Mary Galvin to see if she will handle.

**Brief discussion re**: Pastor’s Discretionary Fund collection on first Sundays. This hasn’t been announced consistently. Georgia will make note to do so on the last and first Sundays.

1. Adjournment: 8:40 p.m.

Next meeting: December 9, 2019; 6:30 p.m.

November Treasurer’s Report

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Beginning Cash                $82,080.87

       Receipts                        4,868.84

       Expenses                       5,119.56

Ending Cash                     $81,830.15

Cash on Hand

        MMarket Account      $75,536.65

        Flagstar Savings                  0.00

        Checking Account         6,293.50

Total                                   $81,830.15

        Cert. of Deposit         $ 8,814.87

        Fah Savings                 \_\_\_ 0.00

Total                                  $ 8,814.87

Grand Total on Hand        $90,645.02

   November Current Totals

                          Receipts       $  4,301.84

                       Expenses         4,678.22

                                             - $     376.38

    Year to Date Current Totals

                         Receipts        $47,306.44

                         Expenses.       55,879.90

                                             -$  8,573.46

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dorothy Schultz, Treasurer

**January Activities**

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January 1 - Happy New Year.  May we all be richly blessed with good health and happiness in the new year.

January 5 - 11am - Morning Worship with Holy Communion.  No Sunday School.  Coffee Hour following morning worship.

January 6 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room
                                   All Annual Reports are due to Roberta Fisher.

January 8 - 12:30pm - Mary Martha Guild meets for lunch and business meeting.  Bring a sandwich.  Dessert and beverages are provided.
                     7pm   -    World Religions Study Group meets at St. John’s.

January 9 - 7pm - Health and Vitality Team meets in the sanctuary.

January 12 - 11am - Morning Worship and Sunday School.

January 13 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.
                     6:30pm - Council meets.

January 15 - 7pm - World Religions Study Group meets at St. John’s.

January 19 - 11am - Morning Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School.
                                 Annual Congregational Meeting following morning worship.
                                 Potluck Dinner following the Annual meeting.

January 20 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.

January 22 - 7pm - World Religions Study Group meets at St. John’s.

January 26 - 11 am - Morning Worship and Sunday School.

January 27 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.

January 29 - 7pm - World Religions Study Group meets at St. John’s.

**Additional Activities**

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 **Hat, Scarf and Mitten Tree**
The Sunday School is sponsoring a Hat, Scarf and Mitten Tree for Christmas.  There will be a tree (and box) in the Fellowship Room for donations.  All are welcome to participate in this collection.
Let’s do our part to help keep the children of our community warm during the cold winter months.  Thank you to all and Merry Christmas from the Sunday School students and teachers.

 **Food Pantry**

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!

 **Mary Martha Guild**
We meet on the second Wednesday of every month for lunch and a business meeting (except in July and August).  Bring a sandwich.  Beverages and dessert are provided.  Each month we have a hostess who provides dessert.  Dues for the year are $10.  Please see Loretta or Lynn, if you have any questions.

**Sunday School**

The program is for children ages 4 through 11 and meets after the children attend the beginning of church and have a special time with Pastor Ken.  We are in need of additional teachers for this year.  Please see Lynn if you have any questions or are interested in teaching.

**Coffee Donations**

There is a container on the counter by the coffee pots for freewill donations to help pay for the cost of Coffee Hour. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

**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!

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

The Annual Congregational meeting of St. John’s United Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2020, immediately following Morning Worship.  All persons responsible for reports from the various groups need to have their completed reports sent to Robert Fisher, no later than Monday, January 6 (rfisher@gaddbiz.com).  There will be a Potluck Dinner following the Annual Meeting.  A sign-up sheet will be available in the Fellowship Room.  The church will provide the meat.

**Scripture Reading for January 2020**

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**Sunday, January 5 Sunday, January 12**

**Second Sunday after Christmas The Baptism of Christ**

Jer 31: 7-14 or Sirach 24” 1-12 Isa 42: 1-9

Ps 147: 12-20 or Wisd of Sol 10: 15-21 Ps 29

Eph 1: 3-14 Acts 10: 34-43

John 1: (1-9), 10-18 Matt 3: 13-17

**Another Road Possibilities Unfolding**

**Sunday, January 19 Sunday, January 26**

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

Isa 49: 1-7 Isa 9: 11-4

Ps 40: 1-11 Ps 27: 1, 4-9

1 Cor 1: 1-911 1 Cor 1: 10-18

John 1: 29-42 Matt 4: 12-23

**All That We Are**  **Called Together**

**St. Johns United Church of Christ**

**527 N. William Street**

**Marine City, MI 48039**

**Phone:**

(586) 727--1623

**Fax:**

(586) 27-0833

**E-mail:**

kgadd@stjohnsmarinecity.org

We’re on the Web!

**stjohnsmarinecity.org**



JANUARY

NEWSLETTER