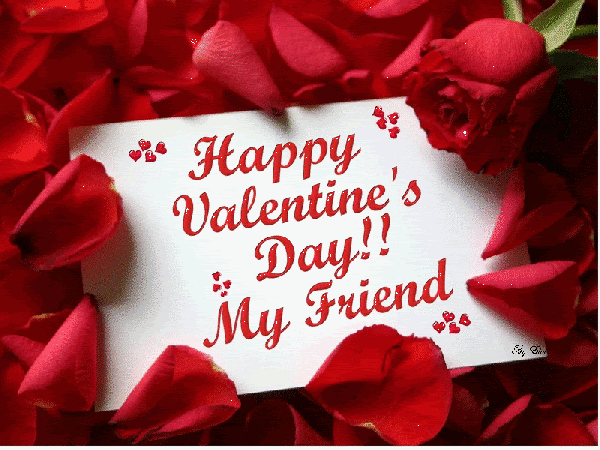
St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039



I would like to think of February as a month of hope even though it can be a challenging month with too little sun and too much cold located between the festive holidays and not quite spring.

I particularly like the fact that this year Epiphany fills the entire month of February. Epiphany, the season of light, the season filled with ah-ha moments as we are invited back to the manger just like the wise men to experience Christ for the very first time, over and over again.

As I said earlier, I like to think of February as a month of hope. Epiphany keeps revealing itself to me every time I notice some little thing like driving home from a late afternoon appointment and realizing it is staying light outside later and later. Ahhh… Epiphany. Epiphany that moment when things are revealed to us. I love experiencing those ah-ha moments. Those are the moments when something becomes clear to me that was not clear to me before. I have been told and it has been proven to me that if we continue to maintain a working relationship with God, we WILL have spiritual experiences. This is not a maybe statement but an absolute statement. We just need to be aware enough to notice them. Isn’t that what Epiphany is all about. Learning to trust God enough to let God guide us and teach us, despite what we think is a better way. Allowing ourselves to learn how to grow and live more spirit filled lives. And then doing so. When we do that, we allow ourselves to be present to and experience a never-ending number of miracles that occur in us and around us.

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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

**Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued**

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For those who are anxious about whether you are ready to do what it is that God may call you to do, remember that God does not call the prepared but prepares the called.

During this Epiphany season, it is my hope that you allow God the opportunity to shine more brightly in you and through you. May each of us bring a little more light to the world that so desperately needs it as we prepare ourselves for Lent.

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.

Take care and be well, Peace

Ken

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## Happy Birthdays in February

**Prayers For ……**

Sandy Elizabeth

Tricia Alma

Bob Aaron

Brenda John

Steve Mike

Donald Carolyn Carissa Corey Nick Becca Jake Mason Avery Rosemarie

Tricia Dan M. Don & Patti Tina

Tom & Brenda Chloe

Bill Brian

Becky Jim & Karen

Tamara & Tom Mr. Amella

Mrs. Rosello Mrs. Gerber

Stephanie Tommy

Loretta Don & Lois

Harvey & Lynn       Joy

Pat Tom

Families of St. John & St. James

2/8 Lynn Andrews

2/9 Ron Leonard

2/18 John Delude

2/25 Elijah Phelan

2/26 Steve Andrews

**Worship Ministry**

**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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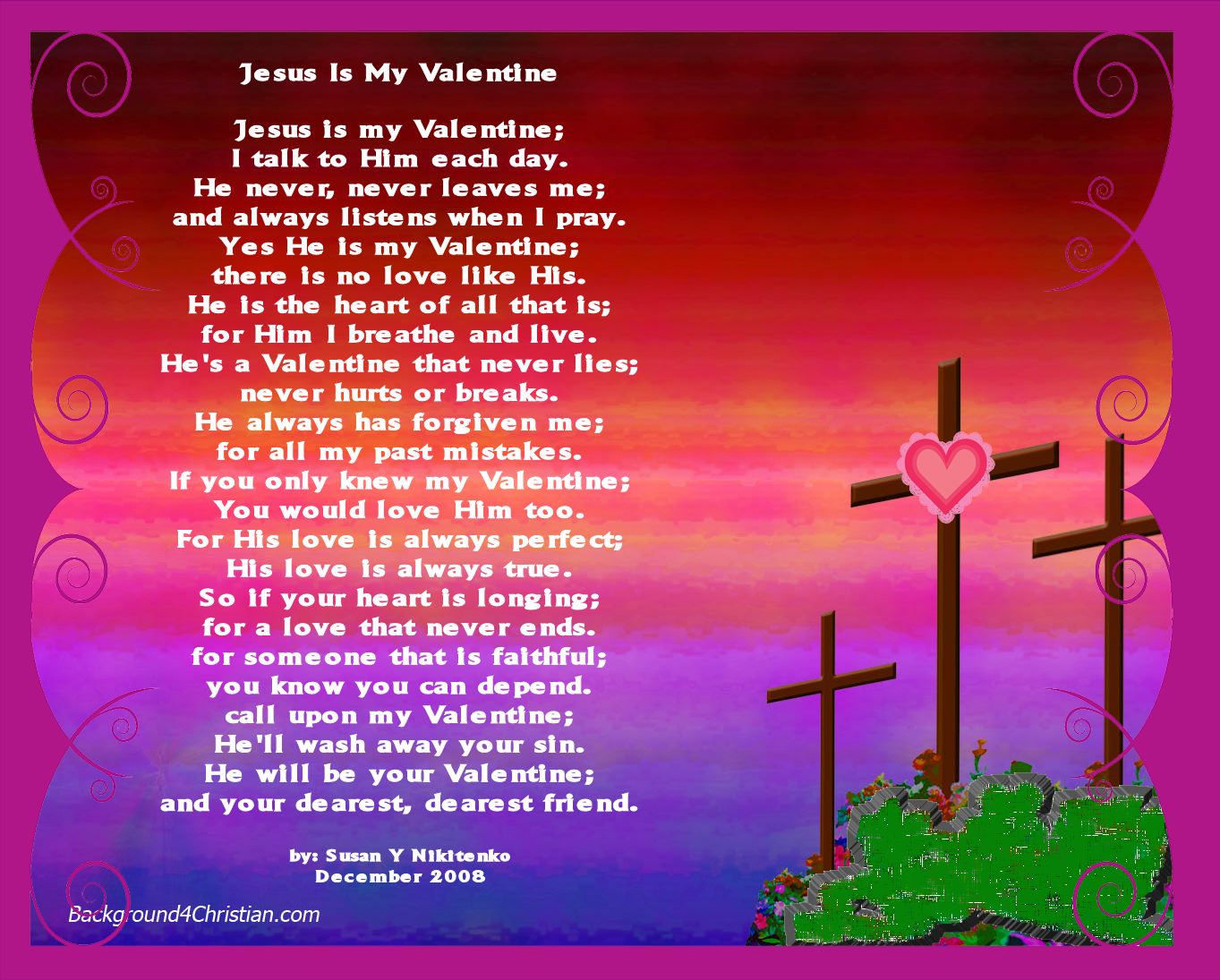
**Kid’s Page**



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###### Happy Valentine’s Day





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**Meeting Minutes / Reports**

St. Johns United Church of Christ

Council Meeting

December 9, 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 Ken Gadd

Minutes

1. Call to order 6:45p.m.
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Ken
3. Roll call – All present
4. Approval of agenda
5. Minutes of last meeting – Motion to approve by Dorothy. Second by Carolyn. Motion passed
6. Standing Reports
7. Treasurers Report
8. Eliminate Social ($490.61), Message ($90.48), and Outreach Funds ($962.00) and

move money into the **Current-General Fund**.

Motion to accept changes Carolyn. Second by Loretta.

1. Eliminate Sound System Fund ($851.83) and move money into **Building Fund**.

Motion to accept changes by Loretta. Second by Lynn Reh

1. Eliminate Hurricane Relief Fund ($585.00), Christmas Fund ($150.00) and move money into **Michigan Conference Fund**.

Motion to accept changes by Dorothy. Second by Loretta.

1. QuickBooks program: Pastor Ken will look into purchasing program and find out what kind of computer will be compatible to run the program.
2. Insurance: Insurance has almost doubled from last year. Dorothy will check into why the increase. Ken will find out who insures St. James.

Motion to approve Treasurers Report by Carolyn. Second by Lynn A.

1. Financial Secretary Report
2. Motion to accept report by Carolyn. Second by Lynn A.
3. Motion to accept 2020 budget by Dorothy. Second by Lynn R.
4. Mary Martha Guild
5. Christmas party is scheduled for December 11.
6. Sunday School
7. Christmas program is scheduled for December 22. The children will sing three songs and Pastor Ken will tell the history of each song.

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1. Pastors Report
2. Luke Hincherick will be starting confirmation classes in January 2020.
3. Pastor will be starting a 4-week class on World Religions. The dates are January

8,15,22, and 29 at 7pm.

1. Health & Vitality will start back up on January 9. Pastor will see how often the committee is willing to meet.
2. Building and Grounds
3. Steeple replacement: we are waiting for the company to replace the steeple and see if we need to winterize it.
4. Georgia sent ‘thank you” notes to Tim Kelly and Joe Griffor for their work on the church.
5. Council is looking into what’s causing the water discoloration in the church. We are going to see how much the Health Department charges to have the water tested. Carolyn will call and the council agreed that if it was less than $50, we would go ahead and have it tested.

Motion to accept by Lynn R. Second by Dorothy.

1. Unfinished Business
2. We had leftover butter pats from our Chili-potato dinner and will see if we can donate to Helping Hands. Motion by Lynn R. Second by Carolyn.
3. We are looking to replace outgoing council members. We will need 5-7 people on council. There are several church members that are being considered. Ken will talk with the men and Georgia will talk with the women. The new members would start in February 2020.
4. The church has adopted one family to help out this Christmas season.
5. One of the items discussed from our Security & Emergency procedures is about locking the doors once the service has started. It may have to be locked by the Sunday school teacher when she brings the children into that area. When there’s no Sunday School, someone may have to be assigned. Motion to approve policy as amended by Lynn R. Second by Loretta.
6. New Business
7. Do we donate to Old Newsboys??
8. Annual meeting & potluck dinner is scheduled for January 19, 2020.
9. All reports are due January 5, 2020.

Motion to adjourn at 8:50p.m. by Dorothy. Second by Lynn R.

Next meeting: January 13, 2020 at 6:30p.m.

Submitted by Lynn Andrews-secretary

December Treasurer’s Report

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|  |
| --- |
| Beginning Cash                $81,830.15         Receipts                        7,852.95         Expenses                      7.289.51  Ending Cash                     $82,393.59  Cash on Hand          MMarket Account      $75,543.10          Flagstar Savings                  0.00          Checking Account         6,850.49  Total                                   $82,393.59          Cert. of Deposit         $ 8,825.86          Fah Savings                 \_\_\_ 0.00  Total                                  $ 8,825.86  Grand Total on Hand        $91,219.45       November Current Totals                            Receipts       $  7,532.95                         Expenses         5,074.51                                                $  2,458.44      Year to Date Current Totals                           Receipts        $54,839.39                           Expenses.       60,954.41                                               -$  6,115.02    Respectfully Submitted by,  Dorothy Schultz, Treasurer |

**Mary Martha Minutes**

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Mary Martha Minutes from the meeting held on November 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1:45pm by Loretta.

Members present:  Loretta, Mary, Linda, Carolyn A., Brenda, Lois, and Lynn.

We welcomed our newest member, Mary Lesterson, to our group.

There were no minutes or Treasurer’s report to be presented.

Old Business - Lois made a motion, seconded by Brenda, that we make our annual donations to the following organizations:  The United Church of Christ (OCWM), The Salvation Army, Marine City Old  Newsboys, A New Dawn, and the Downriver Helping Hands in the amount of $400. each.  Motion carried.

New Business - Our December meeting will be on Wednesday, December 11 at 12 noon. This will be our annual Christmas Party.  Loretta and Nelson will provide the ham and everyone else will bring a dish to pass.  Donations will be collected from the members and we will decide who to give the funds to at the party.

Motion made by Brenda, seconded by Lynn to adjourn the meeting at  2:25pm.  Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Reh

Secretary/Treasurer

**February Activities**

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February 2 - 11am - Morning Worship with Holy Communion.  No Sunday School.  Coffee Hour following morning worship.  
  
February 3 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room     
  
February 9 - 11am - Morning Worship and Sunday School.  
  
February 10 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.  
                      6:30pm - Council meets.  
  
February 12 - 12:30pm - Mary Martha Guild meets.  Lunch and business meeting.  Bring a sandwich.  Beverage and dessert will be provided.  Lynn Reh is the hostess.  
  
February 16 - 11am - Morning Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School.   
  
February 17 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.  
  
February 23 - 11 am - Morning Worship and Sunday School.  
  
February 24 - 2:30pm - God’s Grace Through Prayer meets in the Fellowship Room.  
  
February 26 - 7:00pm - Ash Wednesday Service at St. James.

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**Additional Activities**

**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**

Look for the blue recycling bins at St. John’s! We recycle paper and cardboard (please, no candy wrappers or trash); this bin is next to the sanctuary door for ease of use following service. We also recycle plastic, like water bottles and clean plastic cups; this bin is near the door to the parking lot. Please do not recycle Styrofoam or plastic wraps. Let’s tread lightly on God’s earth and try to leave it closer to the way he created it for us!

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**Scripture Reading for February**

**Sunday, February 2 Sunday, February 9**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Mic 6 : 1-8 Isa 58: 1-9a (9b-12)

Ps 15 Ps 112: 1-9 (10)

1 Cor 1: 18-31 1 Cor 2: 1-12 (13-16)

Matt 5: 1-1211 Matt 5: 13-20

**The Vision Beautiful Restoring Beauty**

**Sunday, February 16 Sunday, February 23**

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Transfiguration**

Deut 30: 15-20 or Sirach 15: 15-20 Ex 24: 12-18

Ps 119: 1-8 Ps 2 or Ps 99

1 Cor 3: 1-9 2 Peter 1: 16-21

Matt 5: 21-37 Matt 17: 1-9

**From the Heart**  **Dazzling Reign**

**St. Johns United Church of Christ**

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FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER