St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039



Happy New Year!

For many the New Year means a time of new beginnings and hope. I cannot remember a time when so many were so anxious to close the door on the previous year and were ready to welcome the new year.

The New Year can give us a sense of optimism, opportunity and excitement for what the days ahead. It is as if 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.

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 of active prayer and meditation discerning what God has called me (and us) to do and who God has called me (and us) to be. My hope is that this period of planning and discerning served you well also. And if some how you did not get to it. God allows you to start any time. And start over if you wish.

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 our personal growth and sustainability as well as that 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 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.

# News from Pastor Ken

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

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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

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 and other followers, 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, 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 it is said 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.

We also in the first week 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 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 and us with hope, recognizing and acting on our call to be disciples.

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

Ken

**\*\*Live streaming of Sunday Services will continue at 9:00am on the St. James Facebook page\*\***

**\*\*Live streaming of Sunday Services will continue at 9:00am on the St. James Facebook page.\*\***

 **Live streaming of Sunday Services will continue at 11am. from St. John’s Facebook page.**

**Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued**

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**Anniversaries in January**

## Happy Birthdays in January

1/16 Dorothy J. Hasler

1/29 Katie L. Phelan

1/30 Ron Duetsch

1/24 Brenda & Tom Fisher

**Prayers For ……**

Jack & Mary Irene L.

Tamara Harvey & Lynn

Ben H. Michelene

Linda Kurt

Dorothy Sandy F.

Trisha

Families of St. John & St. James



**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

**Worship Ministry**

**Volunteers Needed**

**Please sign-up**

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

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**Kid’s Page**



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Happy New Year



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**Meeting Minutes / Reports**

St. Johns United Church of Christ

Council Meeting **MINUTES -** *Amended*

November 10, 2020

Council Members Present: Georgia Phelan, Carolyn Hosford, Don Weichert, Shari Faucher, Katie Phelan, Lynn Andrews, Pastor Rev. Ken Gadd

1. Call to order: 6:35 pm
2. Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken
3. Roll Call: absent – Dorothy Schultz
4. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda: Carolyn. Second: Shari. Motion carries.
5. Minutes of last meeting: Motion to approve minutes: Shari. Second: Katie. Motion carries.
6. Standing Reports
	1. Treasurer’s Report: Presented by Pastor Ken

 Motion to approve October report: Lynn. Second Shari. Motion carries.

* + 1. QuickBooks update: Looking to begin implementing new program in 2021. Ken will need a list of everyone’s pledge envelope, as well as all banking account numbers and routing numbers. He will buy the QuickBooks program and the church will reimburse. Motion to have Pastor Ken purchase program by Carolyn. Second by Don. Motion carries.
	1. Financial Secretary’s Income Report

 Motion to approve Shari. Second: Lynn. Motion carries.

* 1. Mary Martha Guild. MMG met on November 4th and drew the ticket for the quilt raffle. Next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2021.

* 1. Sunday School. Nothing to report.
	2. Pastor’s Report
		1. Pastor Ken inquired about the person in charge of changing the alter cloths so he can communicate with them as to what colors are needed. Don will contact Sandy Fritz and ask if she is still able to continue that service.

* + 1. Christmas services: Ken is trying to work out a Christmas schedule that works best for each congregation. He is considering Christmas eve services as follows: St. Johns at 4:00p.m. and St. James at 7:00p.m.

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* 1. Building and Grounds
		1. Floor cleaning will be rescheduled soon.
		2. Electrical upgrade: Kurt Schultz will find out more information about the upgrade.
		3. To-do list: Quite a few items on the list have been accomplished, but some will have to wait until 2021.
		4. Draft use agreement: In progress.
1. Unfinished Business:
	1. Attendance review: 10-15 people attending service.
	2. Chili Potato dinner report: Numbers increased from 80 dinners (2019) to 103 dinners (2020) served. The church offered curbside pickup and it was very successful, with a profit of $1.034.44.
	3. AA group: The smaller AA group that is using St. John’s will be disbanding due to lack of attendance.
	4. Christmas decorating: Scheduled for either November 28th or December 5th. Bill and Mary Galvin have offered to set up the big Christmas tree.
	5. Annual Meeting date has been set for January 17, 2021
	6. Volunteers are needed for ushers/liturgists.
2. New Business
	1. Christmas gifts and amounts will be the same as 2019: **Pastor** **Ken /$200**, council treasurer: **Dorothy/$150**, financial secretary: **Carolyn/$150**, organists: **Catherine &** **Diane/$100 each**, custodian**: John/$100**, secretary: **Birdie/$150**, grounds: **Terry/$100**. Totaling **$1,050**.

Motion to approve by Shari. Second: Carolyn. Motion carries.

* 1. Nominating committee: We will be looking for members interested in joining council. The finance and treasurer’s job may be combined once QuickBooks is up and running. Also, we may offer shorter terms to get more people to commit, all this will be discussed at the next council meeting in December.
	2. Advent candles/lighting signup sheet will be put out for congregation.
	3. Finance Committee/budget meeting: A date will be set for Pastor Ken and Council officers to meet and discuss 2021 budget.
	4. Boy Scouts: The group has asked if they could begin using the church again on Saturday afternoons with the agreement that they would have to sanitize every surface before they leave. Ken is waiting to hear back from the Boy Scout Council to see what the proper protocol is for these groups to begin meeting again due to COVID-19 restrictions.
1. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn at 8:08p.m. by Carolyn. Second: Don

Closing prayer by Pastor Ken

Next meeting: December 14, 2020; 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lynn Andrews

Secretary

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**November 2020 Treasurer’s Report**

Beginning cash balance            Receipts          Expenses Ending         Cash Balance

Current General Fd    $30737.84                          $2869.20                 $4531.63                $29075.41

Sale of 227 West Blvd $32870.25                                                                                              $32870.25

Memorial Fund                   $17085.32                                                                                             $17085.32

Scholarship Fd                         $125.00                                                                                                   $125.00

Building Fd                             $4397.95                                                                                                $4397.95

Coffee Fd                                    $64.04                                                                                                     $64.04

**Total**                                    **$85280.40                         $2869.20                 $4531.63              $83617.97**

Savings                  $75587.71                Net Gain/Loss              This Month               Last Month            To Date

Checking               $8030.26                                                       $-1662.43                   $2559.77             $897.34

**Total                       $83617.97**

**St Johns CD         $8859.07**

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**Additional Activities**

 **Sunday Services**

Sunday Service in church has been suspended until further notice. We are still trying to provide streaming service on Sunday mornings at 11:00am. If it is not available on our Facebook page, please try St. James’- it is the exact same service.

**Council Meetings**

Church Council meets on the second Monday each month via Zoom until further notice. Their next meeting is January 12th at 6:30pm. Georgia Phelan will send out the invites to the Zoom meetings.

**Sunday School**

Sunday School is not scheduled until further notice.

**Mary Martha Guild**

Their next meeting has not been scheduled at this time.

**Grace of God Prayer Group**

No meetings until further notice.

**Health & Vitality Meetings**

No meetings until further notice.

**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.

**Annual Meeting**

St. John’s UCC Annual Meeting that is usually held in January has been postponed until further notice.

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**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!

**Message from St. Johns Council President**

Happy New Year! Like most people, I am SO ready to put 2020 behind and I hope for a much better 2021. Although I hope for speed, I think it wise to prepare for several more months of the same before we can resume some of our normal activities.

As you should know by now, St. John’s Council voted in December to temporarily close our church for live services. We had so few coming it just didn’t make sense to continue. We are so blessed to have our close relationship with St. James’ UCC in Casco Township! Currently, live services continue there, so anyone who wants to attend in person has only a short drive on Sunday mornings to be with Pastor Ken and our friends at St. James. St. James’ and St. John’s Facebook pages will continue to provide a live stream of that service, so we can participate in real time or watch the recording later. We continue to research alternate paths to bring you services online in addition to Facebook.

Along that same line, our Annual Meeting, normally held after a service in January, has been postponed. When it is feasible to hold this meeting with most of us present, it will be rescheduled. In the meantime, our Council continues to meet monthly via Zoom (thanks, Pastor Ken!) and a Budget Committee will meet to prepare our 2021 budget. We will continue to function according to this year’s budget until a new one can be approved.

2020 did provide opportunities, besides learning how to livestream on Facebook! We learned to adjust to our circumstances and managed to have both our Rummage Sale and Chili Potato Dinner in new ways. These events brought in several thousand dollars and helped to offset some off our lost revenue. That was particularly good seeing that our building took no sympathy on us for the difficult times and we managed to need boiler work, electrical work and a new water heater installed, all in 2020. The water heater issue just arose in December when it started to leak onto the maintenance room floor. Sigh- as Roseanne Rosannadanna (played by Gilda Radner) used to say on Saturday Night Live a long time ago- “it’s always somethin’!” But we are managing, and, with your support, we will continue to do so in the new year.

Some thank yous this month: Mike Phelan for hauling out ladders and cleaning the gutters of leaves and debris. To the Galvins, Miriam Guyor and myself for decorating for Christmas. I’m sure we’ll see everyone back to put it all away, too. A BIG thank you to John Gerow for cleaning church, gratis, for the last several months. And thanks to our volunteers who made update phone calls and to those who delivered everyone’s 2021 giving envelopes. If you haven’t received your envelopes, please give me a call or text at 586-242-2410 and we’ll remedy that.

Whew! That was a lot of “stuff”! But as I write this, we are just days away from Christmas, a time of renewal as we welcome the Christ Child into our lives. So please be sure to remember the reason for the season and have a safe and blessed new year.

Georgia

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**Scripture Reading for January**

**Sunday, January 3 Sunday, January 10**

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

Jer 31: 7-14 or Sirach 24: 1-12 Gen 1: 1-5

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

Eph 1: 3-14 Acts 19: 1-7

Jn 1: (1-(), 10-18 Mk 1: 4-11

**Another Road**  **Defining Moments**

**Sunday, January 17 Sunday, January 24**

**Second Sunday After Epiphany Third Sunday After Epiphany**

1 Sam 3: 1-10, (11-20) Jon 3: 1-5, 10

Ps 139: 1-6, 13-18 Ps 62: 5-12

1 Cor 6: 12-20 1 Cor 7: 29-31

Jn 1: 43-51 Mk 1: 14-20

**Known and Loved**  **Follow Me**

 **Sunday, January 31**

 **Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

Deut. 18: 15-20

 Ps 111

 1 Cor 8: 1-13

 Mk 1: 21-28

 **Power to Do**

**St. Johns United Church of Christ**

**527 N. William Street**

**Marine City, MI 48039**

**Phone:**

(810) 765-5371

**E-mail:**

kgadd@stjohnsmarinecity.org

We’re on the Web!

**stjohnsmarinecity.org**



JANUARY

NEWSLETTER