St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039



Ahhhh… February, it is a funny little, short month. The Christmas and New Year celebrations are over, spring and Easter are yet to arrive. It has its challenges for some of us with too little sun and too much cold. Despite that, I have come to appreciate this as a quiet time of reflection.

Lent begins a little early this year starting on Ash Wednesday, February 17. It happens this early every few years. The wonderful part of that is 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.

Unfortunately, like many church/religious (not sure if that should be a little “c” or a big “C”) practices, Lent seems to have become just another church season. I feel that this is MOST unfortunate. Equally unfortunate is that many of those that do practice often consider Lent simply a time of giving up something we like for a few days. I think that just as Jesus spent time in the wilderness contemplating his ministry, we too are called during Lent to spend time considering our own ministry. Let us 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 few extra minutes each day in prayer and meditation. Read a book on spirituality There a bunch out there and they do not have to be theological dissertations. Commit to reading the upper room every morning with your coffee (it is only a small page), read one proverb everyday from the bible (there are 31), commit to a daily and intentional act of kindness. You get the idea. Prepare yourself for what God has planned for you.

# 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

However, as excited as I may sound about Lent, I am still very much enjoying this time in Epiphany. The whole idea of Epiphany keeps revealing itself to me every time I notice some little things like driving home from a late afternoon appointment and realizing it is staying light outside later, even if just a few minutes. 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. Is not 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. 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.

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

**\*\*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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**Prayers For ……**

Jack & Mary Irene L.

Tamara Harvey & Lynn

Ben H. Michelene

Linda Sandy F.

Trisha Jim W.

Families of St. John & St. James

## Happy Birthdays in February

2/2 Carolyn Hosford

2/8 Lynn Andrews

2/9 Ron Leonard

2/18 John DeLude

2/25 Elijah Phelan

2/26 Steve Andrews



**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 Valentine’s Day!!



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**Meeting Minutes / Reports**

St. Johns United Church of Christ

Council Meeting **MINUTES** *via Zoom*

December 14, 2020

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

1. Call to order: 6:55p.m.
2. Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken
3. Roll Call: All present
4. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda: Dorothy. Second: Lynn. Motion carries.
5. Minutes of last meeting: Motion to approve amended minutes: Katie. Second: Shari. Motion carries.
6. Standing Reports
	1. Treasurer’s Report

 Motion to approve November report: Lynn. Second Don. Motion carries.

* + 1. QuickBooks update: Council is looking forward to using this program in 2021. Money will be counted by two people and information will be given to Ken or whoever is responsible for inputting into QuickBooks. We are looking to combine the treasurer and financial secretary positions into one, making it much easier to keep up to date with expenses.
		2. UCC dues: Should we adjust the amount to reflect the member count? Motion to table the UCC dues until next month by Georgia. Second by Shari. Motion carried.
	1. Financial Secretary’s Income Report

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

* + 1. Council members Georgia, Carolyn, Katie, Dorothy, and Lynn will distribute 2021 envelopes. Should council drop off hymnals for home use?
	1. Mary Martha Guild.
		1. Next MMG meeting is scheduled for January 13th.

* 1. Sunday School. Nothing to report.
	2. Pastor’s Report
		1. Christmas schedule: There will be a 7p.m. communion service at St. James on Christmas Eve.
		2. Due to low attendance at St. Johns, we are suspending services until further notice. This will begin December 20th. The council will make phone calls to the congregation and inform them of the closure. St. James will offer a 9a.m. service as well as livestream. Ken also is considering a service on YouTube.

* 1. Building and Grounds
		1. Floor cleaning: to be rescheduled.
		2. Electrical upgrade: The upgrade is complete, and Pastor Ken will inform the insurance company that the changes were completed.
		3. Mike Phelan cleaned all the gutters out. The rest of the to-do list will be discussed later.
		4. Draft use agreement: will revisit topic later.
		5. New water heater: The water heater is leaking and a new one is needed so Georgia has gone ahead a gotten 2 quotes. We need a more efficient heater and the valve needs replacing.

 First quote: Rick Ames with a cost of $1,267.00 – 40-gallon tank with a 6-year warranty.

 Second quote: Mike Hopkins with a cost of $1,287.00 - 40-gallon tank with a 12 year

warranty. If we purchase a high-efficiency water heater, a $200.00 rebate is available. To get the rebate, we would need to show a W9 and gas bill. Kurt Schultz has offered to shut the gas and water off prior to plumbing services. A motion was made by Don to go with Mike Hopkins with a second by Dorothy. Motion carried.

1. Unfinished Business:
	1. Nominating committee: There are 3 council members whose terms are up – Georgia Phelan, Carolyn Hosford, and Lynn Andrews. Georgia and Carolyn will serve a 2nd term, while Lynn will be stepping down.

We are also postponing the churches’ annual meeting until further notice. Motion by Don to postpone until further notice. Second by Dorothy. Motion carried.

* 1. Finance committee/budget meeting: We will be planning a zoom budget meeting with Ken, Georgia, Carolyn, and Lynn. Council will ask Bob Fritz to attend meeting as well.
1. New Business
	1. Mary Martha Guild: The guild provides a yearly activity report and a financial report at our Annual m
	2. Meeting.
	3. Record/History book: Shari has volunteered to be the church historian/recordkeeper. She will be provided with a key to access this book in the office.
2. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn at 8:39p.m. by Dorothy. Second: Katie.

Closing prayer by Pastor Ken

Next meeting: January 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lynn Andrews

Secretary

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**December 2020 Treasurer’s Report**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Treasurers Expense Report For December, 2020** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **This Month** | **This Year** | **Last Year** |  |  |
| Memorial Fund Expenses |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Scholarship Fund Expenses |  | $600.00 | $250.00 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Building Fund Expenses |  |  |  |  |  |
| Window Treatment |  |  |  |  |  |
| Roof |  |  | $2,400.00 |  |  |
| Boiler Repairs |  |  | $1,222.71 |  |  |
| Fah Savings |  |  | $2,370.20 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Social Fund Expenses |  |  |  |  |  |
| Annual Dinner |  | $96.39 | $95.00 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Summaries** | **Beginning** |  |  | **Ending Cash** | **Last Year** |
|  | **Cash Balance** | **Receipts** | **Expenses** | **Balance** | **To Date** |
| Currant- General Fund | $29,075.41 | $4,567.64 | $5,001.18 | $28,641.87 | $27,465.72 |
| Sale of 227 West Blvd | $32,870.25 |  |  | $32,870.25 | $32,870.25 |
| Parsonage Fund |  |  |  | $0.00 |  |
| Benevolent |  |  |  |  |  |
| Memorial Fund | $17,085.32 | $200.00 |  | $17,285.32 | $16,865.32 |
| Scholarship Fund | $125.00 |  |  | $125.00 | $570.00 |
| Building Fund | $4,397.95 | $200.00 | $1,214.00 | $3,383.95 | $4,560.30 |
| Coffee Fund | $64.04 |  |  | $64.04 | $62.00 |
| **Totals** | **$83,617.97** | **$4,967.64** | **$6,215.18** | **$82,370.43** | **$82,393.59** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **This Month** | **Last Month** | **To Date** | **Last Year** |  |
| **Net Gain/Net Loss** | -$433.54 | $897.34 | $463.80 | -$6,115.02 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **To Date** | **Last Year** |  |  |  |
| Savings Account | $75,590.81 | $75,543.10 |  |  |  |
| Flagstar Savings |  |  |  |  |  |
| Checking Account | $6,779.62 | $6,850.49 |  | **This Year** | **Last Year** |
| **Total** | **$82,370.43** | **$82,393.59** |  | $82,370.43 | $82,393.59 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **CD's** |  |  |  |  |  |
| St John's CD | $8,861.28 | $8,825.86 |  | $8,861.28 | $8,825.86 |
| Fah Savings |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | **$8,861.28** | **$8,825.86** |  | **$91,231.71** | **$91,219.45** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Respectfully Submitted by,** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Dorothy Schultz** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Treasurer** |  |  |  |  |  |

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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.

In-Person Sunday Service at St. James USS in Casco, MI at 9:00am.

**Council Meetings**

Church Council meets on the second Monday each month via Zoom until further notice. Their next meeting is February 8th 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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**Message from St. Johns Council President**

From the Prez

February 2021

Here we are- smack in the middle of a Michigan winter, though as of this writing it’s been fairly mild, so no whining from me! Also, as of today, St. John’s remains closed for in-person services. This definitely makes me sad, but I’m pleased to share that your financial support of St. John’s has held pretty steady. Speaking for Council, this is relief, as most of our expenses continue. We thank you for this!

Facebook live streaming of Sunday services has continued and, pleasantly, the technology has worked more smoothly of late. Hope I didn’t just jinx that, but if you had quit trying to watch, give it another go.

As always, at our January Council meeting new Council Members and Officers were nominated and our proposed 2021 budget presented. Under normal circumstances, these items would be presented to you for approval at our Annual Meeting in January. Since that meeting has been postponed, we’ll function with the nominated people and proposed budget until you can vote on them when we meet. Not a perfect solution, but we’ve all learned to adjust to current circumstances. Here is your proposed St. John’s Church Council for 2021:

President Georgia Phelan Secretary Miriam Guyor

Vice President Don Weichert Treasurer Carolyn Hosford

Council Member Shari Faucher Council Member Katie Phelan

I can’t even begin to tell you how excited I am to announce that in January we made the switch to our new QuickBooks accounting system! This switch will enable us to eliminate the Financial Secretary position, although the important and By-Law mandated Treasurer position remains. I’m also pleased to let you know that Gadd Business Consultants has offered to handle a lot of our bookkeeping needs. These two moves will lighten the load on volunteers needed to keep us on track. With these changes, last year’s Financial Secretary, Carolyn Hosford, will move into the Treasurer position. Dorothy Schultz, after many years of dedication to St. John’s, including serving as Treasurer, will retire from Council. Happily, Dort will continue to help with some of her other tasks.

It is with sadness we note the passing of Donna Beardon on January 6. Donna was a staple each week at service. Personally, I was always thankful for her helping with the potato peeling for our two Chili Potato Dinners at St. John’s- not a job everyone wished to jump in on, but she did it joyfully both years. Our sincere condolences to her family.

“These Days” daily devotion booklets for January, February and March are available. I enjoy this small daily re-focus of my day to God’s will. If you’d like one, let me know and I’ll be happy to get it to you.

Please remember Pastor Ken’s First Sunday Discretionary Fund. There is much need, please be generous!

And finally, thanks to Council Member Shari Faucher for volunteering to catch up and then keep up our Records/History Book for St. John’s.

Georgia Phelan

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**Scripture Reading for February**

**Sunday, February 7 Sunday, February 14**

**Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Transfiguration**

Isa 40: 21-31 2 Kings 2: 1-12

Ps 147: 1-11, 20c Ps 50: 1-6

1 Cor 9: 16-23 2 Cor 4: 3-6

Mk 1: 20-39 Mk 9: 2-9

**Source of Strength**  **Compassionate Community**

**Sunday, February 21 Sunday, February 28**

**First Sunday in Lent Second Sunday in Lent**

Gen 9: 8-17 Gen 17: 1-7, 15-16

Ps 25: 1-10 Ps 22: 23-31

1 Peter 3: 18-22 Rom 4: 13-25

Mk 1: 9-15 Mk 8: 31-38 or Mk 9: 2-9

**God’s Loving Paths**  **Always Close**

**St. Johns United Church of Christ**

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We’re on the Web!

**stjohnsmarinecity.org**



FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER