St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039

Contents

News from Pastor Ken 1

Pastor Ken News Cont. 2

Birthdays 3

Anniversaries 3

Worship Ministry 3

Military Prayer List 3

Prayers Needed 3

Kid’s Page 4

St. Patrick’s Day 5

Scripture Readings 5

Reports 6-9

Council President 10

Additional Activities & Notices 11



Oh, can’t we all use a little spring. As much as I have come to appreciate the beauty of winter, I just cannot help getting excited about March. The month when Spring officially arrives, even though it may not feel like it. Even though I know it will still unofficially be winter until……

The grey seemingly endless days of winter can be such a struggle for so many of us, especially after the year we have had. However, just a couple days ago, as I was walking up the driveway looking at my very snow-covered dormant gardens, I felt the warm sunshine on my face. Then the afternoon clouds and cold took over. What a feeling of hope I had although 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 keep an eye toward the feeders looking for the first robins to arrive. I wait with anticipation as the snow melts to see the little buds starting to appear and the daffodil shoots pushing up. Those crazy little impatient daffs that just cannot wait any longer and are willing to defy the cold and snow to make their presence known. I think there are lessons for us to be learned by those beautiful little flowers about being willing to see beyond the cold, darkness in this world and to be a vision of hope.

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. As a reminder, 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.

# News from Pastor Ken

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

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

Lent is not 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. Let us use this time for planning and preparing. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation. I continue to 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 a few extra minutes each day in prayer and meditation. Read a book on spirituality, commit to reading the Upper Room every morning with your coffee (it is 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.

Although most of us think that Lent is 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, optimism, and wonder.

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

**\*\*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**

**Page 2 of 11**

**Page 3 of 11**

## Happy Birthdays in March

 **Happy Anniversaries in March**

3/10 Ron and Linda Leonard

3/17 Carolyn Hosford

3/20 Mary Lou Lesterson

3/28 Jack Leonard

**Prayers For ……**

Ted S. John

Jack & Mary Irene L.

Tamara Harvey & Lynn

Ben H. Michelene

Linda Sandy F.

Trisha Jim W.

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.

**Council Members 2021**

President – Georgia Phelan

Vice-President – Don Weichert

Treasurer – Carolyn Hosford

Secretary – Miriam Phelan

**Additional Council Members:** Shari Faucher, Katie Phelan, Rev. Ken Gadd

**Page 4 of 11**

**Kid’s Page**



**Page 5 of 11**

St. Patrick’s Day Poem!!



**Scripture Reading for March**

**Sunday, March 7 Sunday, March 14**

**Third Sunday in Lent Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Ex 20: 1-17 Num 21: 4-9

Ps 19 Ps 107: 1-3, 17-22

1 Cor 1: 18-25 Eph 2: 1-10

Jn 2: 13-22 Jn 3: 14-21

**Beautiful Law**  **No Matter What**

**Sunday, March 21 Sunday, March 28**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent Sixth Sunday in Lent**

Jer 31: 31-34 Isa50: 4-9a

Ps 51: 1-12 or Ps 119: 9-16 Ps 31: 9-16

Heb 5: 5-10 Phil 2: 5-11

Jn 12: 20-33 Mk 14: 1-15:47 or Mk 15: 1-39 (40-47)

**Deep In Our Hearts**  **Into Jerusalem**

**Page 6 of 11**

**Meeting Minutes / Reports**

St. Johns United Church of Christ

Council Meeting **MINUTES** *via Zoom*

January 11, 2021

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

1. Call to order: 6:33p.m.
2. Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken
3. Roll Call: All present
4. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Don. Second by Carolyn. Motion carries.
5. Minutes of last meeting: Motion to approve minutes by Shari. Second by Dorothy. Motion carries.
6. Standing Reports
	1. Treasurer’s Report:

 Motion to approve December report by Carolyn. Second by Lynn. Motion carries.

* + 1. Budget 2021 –

A budget meeting was held January 7th via zoom and the committee established a draft for the 2021 year. The proposed budget is for 2021 is $65,100.00. One of the changes to the new budget is eliminating the Financial Officers gratuity this year. Motion to approve this change by Shari. Second by Dorothy. Motion carries.

 Appreciation dinner is now called Annual Meeting Dinner. The Christmas/Flowers/Misc. category has been changed into separate accounts: Staff gifts (Christmas gifts), Flowers (funerals, surgeries, etc.), and miscellaneous (for small church needs). Council has added Fundraising (Chili dinner) to the budget also. Lastly, Georgia will be supplied with stamps for the mailing of the monthly newsletter. Carolyn will also be reimbursed for ink and paper needed to provide monthly financial reports.

Motion to approve the 2021 budget with changes to be approved by the congregation: Dorothy. Second by Lynn. Motion carries.

A few accounts will be removed from treasurers’ report (Fahs savings, parsonage fund, Flagstar Bank, window treatments), items that no longer apply.

* + 1. QuickBooks –

We are anticipating being able to convert to QuickBooks, Ken just needs more info, such as, checkbook account numbers, incoming bills, weekly contributions. All this information needs to be put into the QuickBooks program. The Gadd Business will be responsible for all incoming funds as well

as expenses out. All free of cost to St. Johns UCC. *See attached sheet for Income & Payment Accounting System.*

Page 7 of 11

a. Financial Secretary’s Income Report

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

* 1. Mary Martha Guild. The guild received a thank you card from Helping Hands which Carolyn will share with the group at the next meeting.

* 1. Sunday School. Nothing to report.
	2. Pastor’s Report
		1. Services at St. Johns will be suspended until further notice.

* 1. Building and Grounds
		1. Close church for a week for floor cleaning.
		2. To-do list.
		3. Draft use agreement (Ken)

 Motion to table items i, ii, iii, by Carolyn. Second by Don. Motion carries.

* + 1. New water heater report – The new water heater has been installed. There is a problem with getting our rebate because the water heater is not considered energy efficient, as we were informed. Also, it is an 8-year warranty, not a 12-year.
1. Unfinished Business:
	1. UCC dues – At $3.00 per person we will owe $237. 00.
	2. Record/History book – Shari will oversee our record/history books. She has been given a key and will be informed of changes so that she can update the books.
	3. Annual meeting – TBD at a future time. Nelson Prange has submitted service attendance for 2020. This will be added to the Annual Meeting Report.
	4. Church closure – TBD, we will revisit this topic monthly to determine when to reopen. Ken will continue have services at St. James and Livestream. He will also be setting up a schedule for the Lenten services. (Ash Wednesday, Easter, etc.).
	5. TOPS, our local group would like to start meeting back up soon. The group would be responsible for sanitizing after their meetings.
2. New Business
	1. Officers for 2021 – President-Georgia Phelan

 Vice President-Don Weichert

 Treasurer-Carolyn Hosford

 Secretary-Miriam Phelan

 Other Council members-Shari Faucher, Katie Phelan, Rev. Ken Gadd. There will be a recognition for council members for 2021 in the newsletter.

1. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn at 8:05p.m. by Lynn. Second by Katie. Motion carries.

Closing prayer Georgia.

Next meeting: February 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lynn Andrews

Secretary

**Page 8 of 11**

**January 2021 Treasurer’s Report**

**St. John United Church of Christ**

**Profit & Loss**

 Jan 21

Ordinary Income/Expense

 Income

Christmas Offering 2,020.00

Miscellaneous Income

Refunds 50.00

Tuesday Night AA 80.00

Total Miscellaneous Income 130.00

Plate Offering 2,115.00

 Total Income 4,265.00

Expense

Bank Service Charges 4.00

Dues and Subscription 237.00

Internet and Phone 123.10

Payroll Expenses 3,266.66

Repairs and Maintenance 2,383.00

Utilities 450.00

 Total Expense 6,463.76

Net Ordinary Income -2,198.76

Other Income/Expense

Other Income

 Interest Earned on Money Market 3.21

Total Other Income 3.21

Net Other Income 3.21

Net Income **-2,195.55**

**Page 9 of 11**

**St. John United Church of Christ**

 Balance Sheet

Jan 31, 21

ASSETS

Current Assets

 Checking/Savings

 Money Market - 1991

 General Fund 25,441.65

 Memorial Fund 17,285.32

 Sale of 227 West Blvd 32,870.25

Total Money Market - 1991 75,597.22

TCF Bank

Building Fund 1,050.95

Coffee Fund 64.04

General Fund 3,340.87

Scholarship Fund 125.00

Total TCF Bank 4,580.86

 Total Checking/Savings 80,178.08

Total Current Assets 80,178.08

Other Assets

TCF Bank - CD 8,861.28

TCF CD 0351 1,705.76

 Total Other Assets 10,567.04

TOTAL ASSETS **90,745.12**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

 Equity

Opening Balance Equity 92,940.67

Net Income -2,195.55

 Total Equity 90,745.12

 TOTAL LIABILITIES **90,745.12**

**Page 10 of 11**

**Message from St. Johns Council President**

March 2021

Here we are greeting March- the last holdout of winter. When we get to this point, I know spring is around the corner! April can still be chilly, but the temperature starts bouncing higher all the time and the worst winter has for us is past.

Our best news this month is the reopening of St. John’s for Sunday services, beginning February 28. As the reported number of Covid cases improves, we are more comfortable gathering again. This is not to say the whole pandemic is behind us, as news reports remind us of a new variant making its way around. However, we feel that with the knowledge we have and stressing the importance of wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, we’re able to gather again in the house of our Lord. Please note that services will continue to be available online on Facebook, if you’re still most comfortable attending that way.

Along the same line, I anticipate rescheduling our Annual Meeting in the not-too-distant future. We’ll monitor attendance at Sunday service and when numbers recover enough, we’ll get this on the calendar.

The United Church of Christ has reached out to all congregations with their first appeal for 2021. This year’s One Great Hour of Sharing is themed “Let Love Flow”. Our donations, together with those from across the church, create great impact on work being done both here in the U.S. and across the world. As our letter from Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, AGM, Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries writes to us, “When you share your gifts, you “Let Love Flow” and your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of God’s love continues to change lives here and around the world, as we build a just world for all.” Look for your envelope at church or in your newsletter and simply include it with your regular contribution to St. John’s.

As in the past, I will be away for the month of March. I will be available, if needed, via email and telephone. Or even Zoom, as I’ve gotten very comfortable during the last year with this helpful technology.

God’s blessings to you all as we continue through these challenging and historic times. I’ve been so glad to have the strength of my church and my God to help me through this. Some people just don’t know what they’re missing! If you know someone like this, invite them to join us now- it’s never too late 😊

Georgia

**Page 11 of 11**

**March Events**

Wednesday, March 3 – Zoom Discussion Meeting – Discuss Upper Room Reading – 7:00pm

Sunday, March 7 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 11:00am

Monday, March 8 – In person Council Meeting – 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 10 - Zoom Discussion Meeting – Discuss Upper Room Reading – 7:00pm

Sunday, March 14 – Sunday Service – 11;00am

Wednesday, March 17 - Zoom Discussion Meeting – Discuss Upper Room Reading – 7:00pm

Sunday, March 21 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 11:00am

Wednesday, March 24 - Zoom Discussion Meeting – Discuss Upper Room Reading – 7:00pm

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday Service – 11:00am

**Additional Activities**

 **Sunday Services**

Sunday Service in church has been resumed as of February 28th at 11:00am. 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 is resuming in person meetings on the second Monday each month. Their next meeting is March 8th at 6:30pm.

**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.

**St. Johns United Church of Christ**

**527 N. William Street**

**Marine City, MI 48039**

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We’re on the Web!

**stjohnsmarinecity.org**



MARCH

NEWSLETTER