

St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039

News from Pastor Ken



Happy New Year!

For many the New Year means a time of new beginnings and hope.

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.

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 ourselves and 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.

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, 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.

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Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

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 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

Upcoming Events and Services



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.

Prayers For

Beth Baysinger
Janet Bulgarian
Helen DeLude
Margaret Fenton
Brenda and Tom Fisher
Peggy Galvin
Tamara Gorence
Judy and Mickey Lester
Betty Reynolds
Kurt Schultz
Betty Summerville
Joyce Wiinikainen
Jim Wood
St. John's Congregation

Happy Birthdays in January

21 Peggy Galvin
24 Brenda Fisher
25 Ken Gadd
30 Ron Duetsch

Happy Anniversary's in January

No Anniversary's

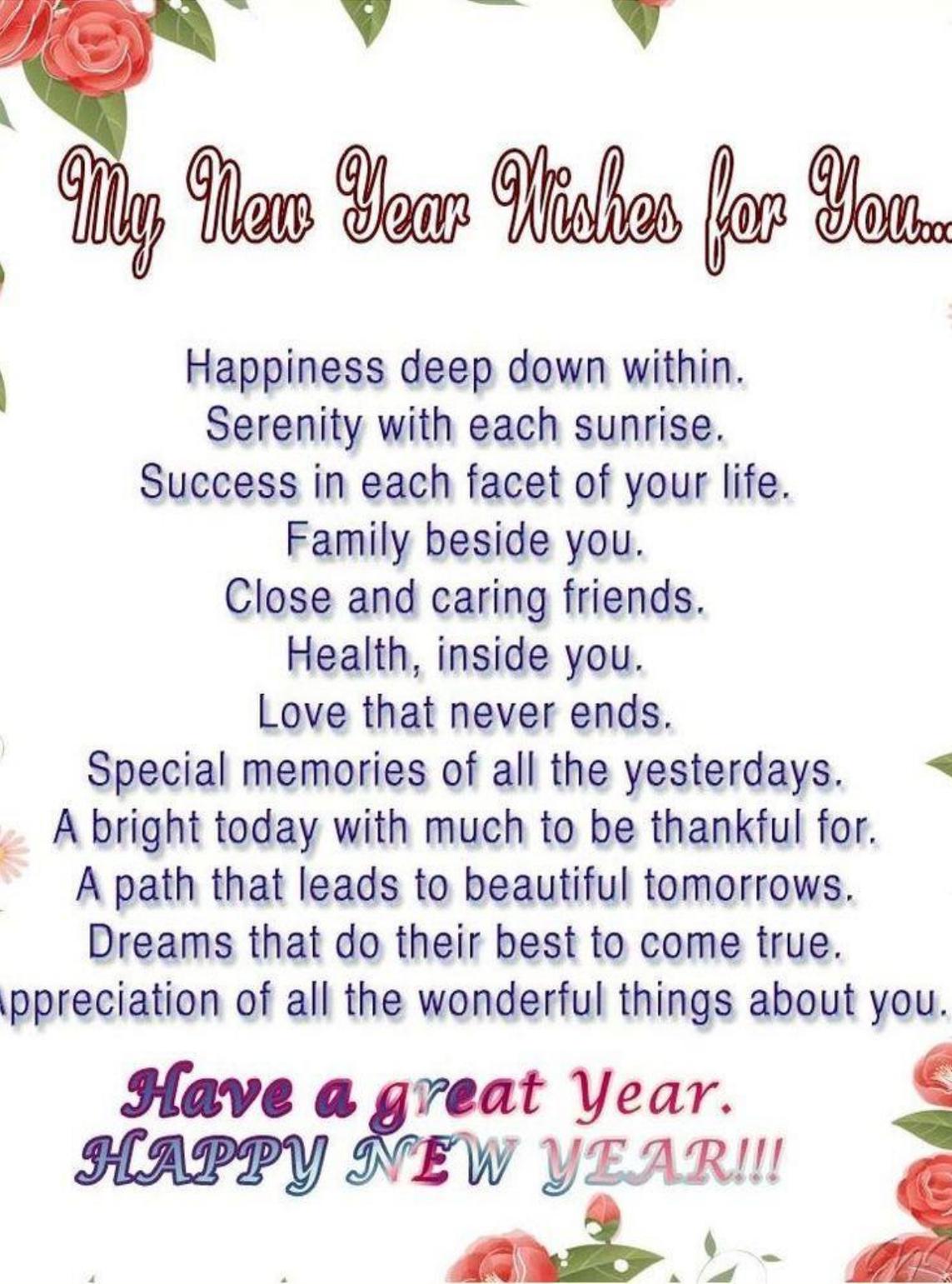
Worship Ministry

Volunteers Needed Please sign-up

Please consider signing up for the ministries of Usher/Greeter, Liturgists and Altar Care. We need Advent Readers for this upcoming Advent Season.

Kid's Page





My New Year Wishes for You...

Happiness deep down within.
Serenity with each sunrise.
Success in each facet of your life.
Family beside you.
Close and caring friends.
Health, inside you.
Love that never ends.
Special memories of all the yesterdays.
A bright today with much to be thankful for.
A path that leads to beautiful tomorrows.
Dreams that do their best to come true.
Appreciation of all the wonderful things about you.

Have a great Year.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Reports and Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for September, 2017

Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 48,660.28
Receipts	38,453.29
Expenses	<u>2,721.30</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 84,392.27
Savings Account	\$ 47,407.39
Savings Account-Flagstar	33,717.66
Checking Account	<u>11,719.98</u>
	\$ 92,845.03
Expenses from Fah's Savings	<u>8,452.76</u>
Total	\$ 84,392.27
St. John's CD	\$ 8,735.94
Fah's Endowment Savings	<u>2,368.42</u>
Total	\$ 11,104.36

Treasurer's Report for October, 2017

Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 84,392.27
Receipts	6,433.78
Expenses	<u>4,175.90</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 86,650.15
Savings Account	\$ 47,409.40
Savings Account-Flagstar	33,720.43
Checking Account	<u>13,973.08</u>
	\$ 95,102.91
Expenses from Fah's Savings	<u>8,452.76</u>
Total	\$ 86,650.15
St. John's CD	\$ 8,735.94
Fah's Endowment Savings	<u>2,369.52</u>
Total	\$ 11,105.46

Submitted by
Dorothy Schultz, Treasurer

Mary Martha Guild Minutes

Mary Martha Minutes from the meeting held on October 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:40pm by Loretta.

Members present: Tamara, Lois, Carolyn, Loretta, Brenda, Linda, Judy, Marian and Lynn.

Loretta welcomed our newest member, Marian McKeller.

Lynn read the minutes from the September meeting. Motion made by Lois, seconded by Brenda to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Lynn. The current balance in the checking account is \$1,422.13. Motion made by Brenda, seconded by Tamara to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. Brenda paid her annual dues.

Old Business - We have received over 100 recipes for the CHRISTmas cookbook. Loretta has typed them for us. Pricing of printing and putting together the books has been checked into. To print on card stock is going to be expensive, so alternatives will be explored. We will let everyone know what is decided and set a time to put the books together ourselves, if we are going to pursue this project.

Lynn made a motion, seconded by Tamara to table our free lunches until after the first of the year. Motion carried. Dishcloths have been donated to a humane society in St. Clair and also to Helping Hands. Dishcloths will be displayed in the fellowship room and on sale for \$1.25 per cloth.

New Business - none at this time.

Motion made by Lynn, seconded by Judy, to adjourn the meeting at 2:30pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Reh, Secretary/Treasurer

Reports and Minutes Continued

St. John's United Church of Christ
Council Meeting
November 13, 2017

Present: Kurt Schultz, Dorothy Schultz, Don Wiechert, Lynn Reh, Loretta Prange, Miriam Guyor, Denise Beattie, Rev. Gadd

Call to order at 6:40 p.m. Opening prayer by Rev. Gadd

- I. Minutes of October 17, 2017 minutes presented by Miriam. Motion by Lynn to accept minutes as presented. Second by Denise. Carried.
- II. Reports
 - A. Treasurer's Report presented by Dorothy. Motion by Lynn to accept as presented. Second by Miriam. Carried.
 - B. Financial Secretary's Report presented by Loretta. Motion by Denise to accept as presented. Second by Lynn. Carried.
 - C. Mary Martha Guild.
 1. Carolyn Andrews was contacted by Helen Wheeler from St. Martin's Lutheran Church regarding the World Day of Prayer and concern about the lack of interest and participation from the other churches who have participated in the past. The Mary Martha Guild has decided to no longer participate due to this lack of interest.
 2. Mary Martha Guild has sold 56 of the 100 cookbooks printed. The cost of production has been covered and all sales are now profit.
 - D. Pastor's Report
 1. Reviewed the Mary Martha Guild meeting times and date of Christmas party, which will be held on Dec. 14. Spouses and other church members are welcome.
 2. Bulletin. Rev. Gadd would like to include announcements and his contact information in the bulletin. Announcements should be sent to him and he will have these items included. Monthly newsletter info should also be sent to him.
 3. Rev. Gadd is working on upgrading our website. The new address is stjohnsmarinecity.org. It should launch in a few weeks. He is also now an administrator on our facebook page.
 4. Advent. Reviewed our past practices for Advent. Rev. Gadd will get volunteers to do a reading for the lighting of the Advent candles.

5. The children's time at the beginning of service for Sunday School students is going well. Lynn said the Confirmation students will be collecting hats, mittens and scarves for students at Belle River Elementary.
 6. Rev. Gadd likes having liturgists participate in service. Carolyn will continue scheduling them through the end of the year. Rev. Gadd will talk at service about the role of the liturgist to encourage participation and we will also incorporate the Confirmation students as liturgists.
- E. Building and Grounds
1. The floor drain has been cleaned out
 2. Bill Galvin has been working on security lights. Need to get sign working again. Mike Phelan replaced some of the outside bulbs.
 3. Don put together a Security and Emergency Procedure guideline and reviewed it with Council. Don also presented guidelines for emergency medical procedures. We need emergency contact number for congregants. Lynn made a motion to accept the Security and Emergency Procedures and Medical Procedures that were presented by Don. Second by Denise. Carried. . They will be posted and distributed to the congregation and our groups using the building.
 4. We have accepted Terry's bid for snow removal.
- III. Unfinished Business
- A. Floor cleaner. We have been looking for a machine that will do hard floors and carpet. Most don't do a deep clean on carpet, only spot cleaning. Tabled until Kurt checks into more options.
- IV. New Business
- A. Catherine Nutter is willing to continue playing the organ on the second and fourth Sundays. Motion by Denise to continue with Catherine on the second and fourth Sundays at \$75 per service. Second by Loretta. Carried.
 - B. Christmas
 1. Rev. Gadd asked what services we are choosing to have as Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. It was agreed to have our regular 11 a.m. service on Christmas Eve day.
 2. Rev. Gadd shared that St. James has a "Blue Christmas" service on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. and "Lessons and Carols" on Dec. 31 at 11 a.m. and St. John's members are welcome to attend.
 3. Decorating the church will be done early this year to accommodate Advent and the Home Tour. Denise made the motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., second by Dorothy. Carried.

Closing prayer by Rev. Gadd.

Submitted by Miriam Guyor
Secretary

Scripture Reading for January 2018

Sunday, January 7
The Baptism of Christ

Gen 1:1-5

Ps 29

Acts 19: 1-7

Mk 1: 4-11

Defining Moments

Sunday, January 21
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

Ps 62: 5-12

1 Cor 7: 29-31

Mk 1: 14-20

Follow Me

Sunday, January 14
Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

Ps `39: 1-6, 13-18

1 Cor 6: 12-20

Jn 1: 43-51

Known and Loved

Sunday, January 28
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Deut 18: 15-20

Ps 111

1 Cor 8: 1-3

Mk 1: 21-28

Power to Do

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JANUARY NEWSLETTER