

St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039

News from Pastor Ken



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Ahhhh... February, it's 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. In spite of that, I have come to appreciate this as a quite time of reflection.

Lent begins a little early this year starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14. 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 extra few minutes each day in prayer and meditation. Read a book on spirituality, commit to reading the upper room every morning with your coffee (it's only a small page), read one proverb every day from the bible (there are 31), commit a daily and intentional act of kindness, join me in a day of fasting, you get the idea. Prepare yourself for what God has planned for you.



Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

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 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, in spite of 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 at St Johns.

Take care and be well, Peace

Upcoming Events and Services

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, February 4 - 11 am | Divine Worship with Holy Communion Sunday school Coffee Hour following worship |
| Thursday, February 8 - 12:30 pm | Mary Martha Guild meets. All women are welcome to attend. Bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages are provided. Business meeting follows lunch. |
| Sunday, February 11 - | 11 am - Divine Worship Sunday School |
| Monday, February 12 - 6:30 pm | Council meets |
| Wednesday, February 14 | Ash Wednesday |
| Sunday, February 18 | 11 am - Divine Worship Sunday School |
| Sunday, February 25 | 11 am - Divine Worship Sunday school |

Happy Birthdays in February

2/8 Lynn Andrews
2/9 Ron Leonard
2/18 John DeLude
2/25 Elijah Phelan
2/26 Steve Andrews
2/27 Connie Jones

Happy Anniversary's in February

No Anniversaries

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

Prayers For

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

What do the hearts say?

Unscramble the words to find out!

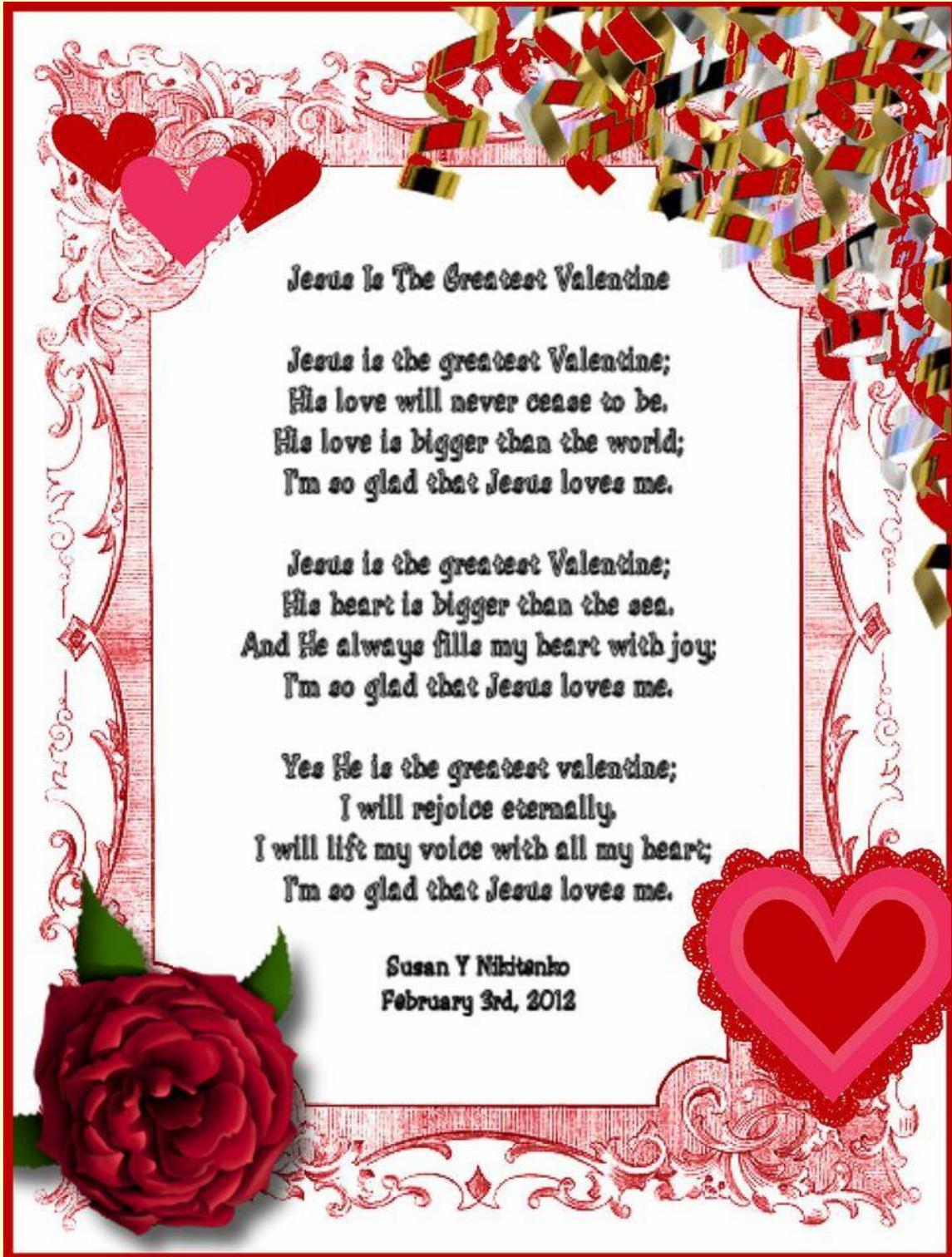
| | | |
|--|--|---|
|  SKIS EM |  ERAHT |  VOEL OYU |
|  RTEU ELVO |  EB NMEI |  LOCO EDDU |
|  TEWSE |  ECTIU IPE |  EVOL UGB |

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our successful evening hosting for the Marine City Holiday Home Tour! We had a great group of volunteers who made cookies, played music, assembled luminaries (Emma and Jacob), brewed coffee, acted as tour guides and countless other tasks. Oh, and did I mention decorate?! Boy, did we decorate! Everything looked fabulous and our 75 or so guests enjoyed their tours and learning about both our building and our mission. Several showed interest in attending our church- a wonderful plus!

The Marine City Civic Women's Club were very appreciative of our efforts and we were presented with a lovely inscribed and dated tree ornament from Bronner's. It's already gracing our new tree, which was donated by members.

Again, thank you to each and every one of you who were able to assist- we hit a home run!





Jesus is The Greatest Valentine

Jesus is the greatest Valentine;
His love will never cease to be.
His love is bigger than the world;
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me.

Jesus is the greatest Valentine;
His heart is bigger than the sea.
And He always fills my heart with joy;
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me.

Yes He is the greatest valentine;
I will rejoice eternally.
I will lift my voice with all my heart;
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me.

Susan Y Nikitenko
February 3rd, 2012

Reports and Minutes

Treasurer's Report

November 2017

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning cash balance | \$87,775.48 |
| Receipts | \$6,069.87 |
| Expenses | <u>\$5,335.97</u> |
| Ending Cash Balance | \$88,509.38 |

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Savings Chemical | \$47,413.36 |
| Savings Flagstar | \$33,726.06 |
| Checking | <u>\$15,822.72</u> |
| Total | \$96,962.14 |
| Fah Expense | <u>\$8,452.76</u> |
| Total | \$88,509.38 |

December 2017

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Cash Balance | \$86,650.15 |
| Receipts | \$5,665.09 |
| Expenses | <u>\$4,539.76</u> |
| Ending Cash Balance | \$87,775.48 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Savings Chemical Bank | \$47,411.35 |
| Savings Flagstar Bank | \$33,723.20 |
| Checking | <u>\$15,093.69</u> |
| Total | \$96,228.24 |
| Fah Expenses | <u>\$8,452.76</u> |
| Total | \$87,775.48 |

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorothy Schultz
Treasurer

Mary Martha Guild Minutes

Mary Martha Minutes from the meeting held on November 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Loretta.

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

Lynn read the minutes from the October meeting. Motion made by Judy, seconded by Carolyn to accept the minutes as read.

Mary Martha November Minutes Continued

The Treasurer's report was given by Lynn. The current balance in the checking account is \$1,610.14. Motion made by Carolyn, seconded by Linda to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Old Business - We are dissatisfied with the dishcloths that were purchased. Lois and Don will contact the company to see if we have any options. We have sold 56 cookbooks so far, and our expenses have been paid, so we are now making a profit. December 14 will be our annual Christmas party. This year the party will held at church at 12:30. Loretta and Nelson will be hosting. Loretta will provide the ham and potatoes. Everyone else can check with Loretta to see what dish they can bring to pass.

New Business - Brenda made a motion, seconded by Judy, that Mary Martha will contribute up to \$300 to purchase a new Christmas tree for the chancel. Donations to Mary Martha will be accepted from the Congregation, as well. Motion carried. Loretta and Lynn will go to the Council with our recommendation. Carolyn made a motion, seconded by Judy, that we make \$200 Christmas donations to the following organizations: Salvation Army, M.C. Old Newsboys, OCWM (United Church of Christ), Helping Hands, Special Dreams Farm, and New Dawn (Steve DuMars). Motion carried. Linda made a motion, seconded by Lynn, that we donate the leftover soup that we have from our free lunch program to St. Martin's Soup Kitchen. Motion carried. Lynn made a motion, seconded by Judy, that we no longer participate in the World Day of Prayer Program. Motion carried. We have received a donation of Ornament Hangars from the Washington Life Center. It was decided that we would have a craft time for the children to make gifts with them.

Motion made by Carolyn, seconded by Judy, to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 pm. Motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Reh
Secretary/Treasurer

Mary Martha Guild Special Minutes

Mary Martha Minutes from Special Meeting held on November 19, 2017

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

We discussed our motion from our previous meeting regarding the Church Christmas tree. Carolyn made a motion, seconded by Tamara, that we withdraw our \$300 donation for the Christmas tree and add the money to our Christmas donations, making \$250. Donations to the six organizations previously approved. Motion carried.

We changed the date of our Christmas party to Wednesday, December 13 at 12:30 pm, to avoid any conflict with the Thursday card group.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Reh
Secretary/Treasurer

Reports and Minutes Continued

St. John's United Church of Christ
Council Meeting
December 11, 2017

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

Call to order at 6:38 p.m. Opening prayer by Rev. Gadd.

- I. Minutes of the November 13, 2017 meeting presented by Miriam. Motion by Loretta to accept minutes as presented. Second by Dorothy. Carried.
- II. Reports
 - A. Treasurer's Report presented by Dorothy. Motion by Miriam to accept report as presented. Second by Don. Carried.
 - B. Financial Secretary's Report presented by Loretta. Motion by Miriam to accept report as presented. Second by Don. Carried.
 - C. Mary Martha Guild.
 1. Christmas Party date has been changed to December 13.
 2. Their annual donations have been sent out (Helping Hands, etc.)
 - D. Sunday School. Lynn asked Kurt to notify the Council that they need to have an accessible key for Sunday School staff, so the doors can be locked during service.
 - E. Pastor's Report
 1. We need to address in the near future how to handle the publication of Bulletins, Newsletters, etc. as his staff is doing them for us at present.
 2. Our updated website should be launching soon and we are posting on Facebook.
 3. Rev. Gadd gave Council members each a copy of a church calendar that included liturgical dates and other information that can be used for reference.
 4. Rev. Gadd asked for feedback on how we feel the transition to him as our Pastor is going. Kurt mentioned that he talked a little fast during service and Rev. Gadd said he could slow down. Don said that he personally feels that he takes home something significant each week from service. Other Council members have heard this as well from our members. Kurt said

5. some are adjusting to having a third week Communion service. Overall, Council feels it is going very well.
 6. A discussion was held regarding reaching out to former members who may be interested in returning.
- F. Building and Grounds.
1. Don reported that the building has been winterized, with Kurt doing much of the work.
 2. Don is compiling a needs/wants list for the building and grounds for consideration in the future.
- III. Unfinished business. None at this time.
- IV. New business.
- A. Our previous caterer for the Appreciation Dinner/Annual Meeting is not available. Rev. Gadd suggested that a potluck dinner could be considered. Dorothy made a motion to make the Appreciation Dinner a potluck with the church providing the meat. Second by Miriam. Carried. The Mary Martha Guild will set up the menu and potluck sign up.
- B. A letter was received from Pastor Alana Kelly of the Congregational Church of St. Clair asking the MMG to let Council know that she is looking for a secretary for the Association and to ask if someone from St. John's or St. James would be interested.

Motion made by Miriam to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Second by Dorothy. Carried.

Closing prayer: Rev. Gadd

Submitted by Miriam Guyor

Scripture Reading for February 2018

Sunday, February 4
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isa 40: 21-31
Ps 147: 1-11, 20c
1 Cor 9: 16-23
Mk 1: 29-39
Source of Strength

Sunday, February 18
First Sunday in Lent
Gen 9: 8-17
Ps 25: 1-10
1 Peter 3: 18-22
Mk 1: 9-15
God's Loving Paths

Sunday, February 11
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Transfiguration
2 Kings 2: 1-12
Ps 50: 1-6
2 Cor 4: 3-6
MK 9: 2-9
Compassionate Community

Sunday, February 25
Second Sunday in Lent
Gen 17: 1-7, 15-16
Ps 22: 23-31
Rom 4: 13-25
Mk 8: 31-38 or Mk 9: 2-9
Always Close

St. Johns United Church of Christ
527 N. William Street
Marine City, MI 48039

Phone:
(586) 727--1623

Fax:
(586) 27-0833

E-mail:
kgadd@stjohnsmarinecity.org

We're on the Web!
stjohnsmarinecity.org



FEBRUARY
NEWSLETTER