

St. Johns United Church of Christ

527 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039

News from Pastor Ken



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I just can't 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 are such a struggle for so many of us. However, just a couple days ago, as I was walking up the drive way looking at my very muddy dormant gardens and I felt the warm sunshine on my face for a few moments. Then again, the afternoon clouds and cold took over. But what a feeling of hope I had even though 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 wait with anticipation as the snow melts to see the little buds starting to appear and the daffodil shoots pushing up. I keep an eye toward the feeders looking for the first robins to arrive. 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.

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



Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

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 an anonymous 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.

As many are aware that during the purple seasons of the Christian calendar, I fast. It has become a wonderful practice for me that has truly changed my spiritual journey. I invite you to share in "A day of fasting with the pastor" this year. Fasting is not about suffering. It is designed to help us focus on our relationship with God. I follow an Islamic/Orthodox tradition of fasting which includes nothing to eat or drink from sunrise to sunset each day, but more importantly four times a day intentional prayer and meditation. Please remember, if you have medical or physical issues that make it unsafe to fast, DO NOT do it. Again, I encourage you to not just "give up" something but to add a little something that will feed your spirit.

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.

St. James / St. John 2018 Lenten & Holy Week Schedule

February 14 - Ash Wednesday 7pm St James
February 21 – Evening Prayer / Discussion Wednesday 7pm St Johns
February 28 – Evening Prayer / Discussion Wednesday 7pm St Johns
March 07 – Evening Prayer / Discussion Wednesday 7pm St Johns
March 14 – Evening Prayer / Discussion Wednesday 7pm St Johns
March 21 – Evening Prayer / Discussion Wednesday 7pm St Johns
March 25 – Palm Sunday 9am St James
March 25 – Palm Sunday 11am St Johns
March 29 – Maundy Thursday w/ Communion, Stripping of the Alter, 7pm St James
March 30 – Good Friday Service / Stations of the Cross 12:30pm St James
March 30 – Good Friday Service / Stations of the Cross 7pm St Johns
March 31 – Great Easter Vigil 7pm St James
April 1 – Easter Communion Service 9am St James
April 1 – Easter Communion Service 11am St Johns

Happy Birthdays in March

3-14 Jacob Hencherick
3-14 Matthew Phelan
3-28 Lonnie Jones
3-28 Jack Leonard

Happy Anniversary's in March

3-10 Ron & Linda Andrews

Worship Ministry

Volunteers Needed
Please sign-up

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



Military Prayer List

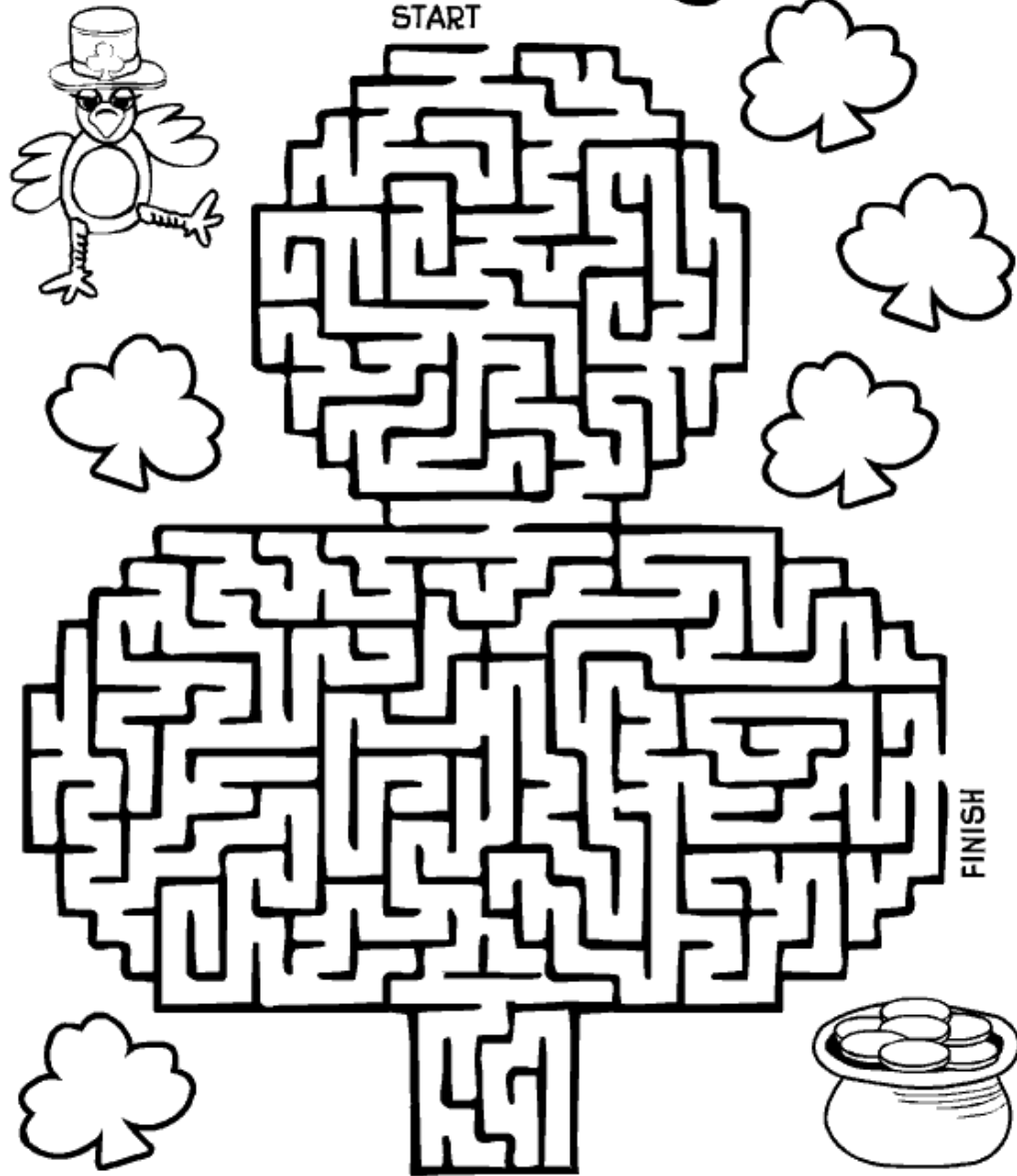
I will be including a list in the newsletter of our men and women in the military, to acknowledge those who serve and to pray for their safety. Please submit your love one's, family member or friend's name, rank and branch of service to be placed on the list.

Josh Bieske
Staff Sgt.
US Air Force

Prayers For

Tricia	Lois & Don
Alma	Lynn
Jason P.	Tim & Family
Kathy M.	Jane & Family
Zachary	Carol & Family
Holly	Helen
Debbie	Kevin
Cindy	Ben Hosford
Tom	Barb David
Jean	Mickey & Judy
Jim & Laura	Jan Coy
Marvin	Linda Swoish
Bigelow Family	Harvey Reh
Aaron	Loretta
Mary	Joy
Kim	Roger
James	Gordie
Aaron Jr	Jim
Peggy	Brenda
Pat & Mary	Judy

St. Patrick's Day! Maze



Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.



Announcements & Activities

March 4 - 11 am - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday school
Coffee Hour following worship

March 7 - 7 pm - Wednesday Evening Lenten Service

March 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.

March 11 - 11 am - Divine Worship
Sunday School

March 12 - 6:30 pm - Council meets

March 14 - 7 pm - Wednesday Evening Lenten Service

March 18 - 11 am - Divine Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday School

March 21 - 7 pm - Wednesday Evening Lenten Service

March 25 - 11 am - Palm Sunday Divine Worship
Sunday school

Let's Recycle

Watch for the new blue recycling bins at St. John's! We will be recycling paper (weekly service programs included) and other paper.

Look for that bin near the doors to the Sanctuary. We'll also be recycling plastic, like water bottles and plastic cups. That bin will be near the coffee station. Let's tread lightly on God's earth- help us go green at St. John's and recycle your paper and plastic!

Reports and Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for January, 2018

Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 88,509.38
Receipts	5,208.00
Expenses	<u>6,029.50</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 87,687.88

Savings Account	\$ 57,413.36
Savings Account-Flagstar	33,726.06
Checking Account	<u>5,001.22</u>
	\$ 96,140.64
Expenses from Fah's Savings	<u>8,452.76</u>
Total	\$ 87,687.88

St. John's CD	\$ 8,744.65
Fah's Endowment Savings	<u>2,368.72</u>
Total	\$ 11,113.37

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorothy Schultz
Treasurer

St. John's United Church of Christ
Council Meeting
January 8, 2018

Present: Kurt Schultz, Dorothy Schultz, Don Weichert, Lynn Reh, Loretta Prange, Miriam Guyor, Denise Beattie, Rev. Ken Gadd
Call to order at 6:38 p.m. Opening Prayer by Rev. Gadd

- I. Minutes of the December 11, 2017 meeting presented by Miriam. Motion by Lynn, second by Denise to accept minutes as presented. Carried.
- II. Reports
 - A. Treasurer's Report presented by Dorothy. Motion by Miriam to accept minutes as presented with the correction to move the Treasurer and Financial Secretary's Christmas gratuities from "Christmas" to "Gratuity." Second by Lynn. Carried.
 - B. Financial Secretary's Report presented by Loretta. Motion by Denise to accept report as presented. Second by Lynn. Carried.
 - C. Sunday School. Classes will resume on January 14.
 - D. Mary Martha Guild. Nothing to report at this time.
 - E. Pastor's Report

Reports and Minutes Continued

1. Rev. Gadd thanked the Council for his Christmas gift.
 2. We now have St. John's stationary available for use.
 3. Rev. Gadd suggested that he offer a series of free entrepreneurial trainings in our Fellowship Hall. He has done these presentations in Port Huron before and finds that these sessions offer exposure for our congregation, are a community service and will promote our new location. They can be advertised locally and through the Chamber of Commerce. Lynn made a motion that we have Rev. Gadd make arrangements to offer these entrepreneurial trainings. Second by Dorothy. Carried.
- F. Buildings and Grounds. Nothing at this time.
- III. Unfinished Business
- A. 2018 Budget. The proposed budget was reviewed. Lynn made the motion that we present the proposed 2018 Budget for a vote at the Annual Meeting on January 21. Second by Denise. Carried.
 - B. Annual Report. Denise will assemble the Annual Report after Kurt has collected the remainder of the reports. Kurt will compose the agenda and cover.
- IV. New Business
- A. Bulletins and Newsletters. These have been compiled by Rev. Gadd's business staff, but we need to resume producing them. Ken will check with his employee for her charge to continue to do these and if she is interested. Kurt knows someone who also may be interested in this.
 - B. Movie Night. Kurt reports that we haven't had attendees for our Movie Nights and it might be time to retire this function. Motion was made by Lynn that beginning in February we discontinue Movie Night. Second by Dorothy. Carried.
 - C. Nominees for Council positions.
 1. Rev. Gadd suggested that at the Annual Meeting, we amend our By-laws to state that a quorum for a Council Meeting would consist of the number of voting members in attendance. He has seen this used in various churches and groups.
 2. We will be approaching members regarding interest in running for Council positions.

Motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. by Denise, second by Dorothy. Carried. Closing Prayer by Kurt.

Scripture Reading for March

Sunday, March 4
Third Sunday in Lent
Ex 20: 1-17
Ps 19
1 Cor 1: 18-25
Jn 2: 13-22
Beautiful Law

Sunday, March 18
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Jer 31: 31-34
Ps 51: 12 or Ps 119: 9-16
Heb 5: 5-10
Jn 12: 20-33
Deep in Our Hearts

Sunday, March 11
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Num 21: 4-9
Ps 107: 1-3, 17-22
Eph 2: 1-10
Jn 3: 14-21
No Matter What

Sunday, March 25
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm / Passion Sunday
Mk 11: 1-11 or Jn 12: 12-16
Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29
Isa 50: 4-9a
Ps 31: 9-16
Phil 2: 5-11
Mk 14: 1-15:47 or Mk 15: 1-39,

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We're on the Web!
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**MARCH
NEWSLETTER**