

St. Johns United Church of Christ

27 N. William Street, Marine City, MI 48039

News from Pastor Ken

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Based on the past week's weather it seems as though we are going to be riding summer into September. Just like the rest of the year, it has been an interesting summer. And the weather was odd as well. Even though I love fall and am not a big fan of long stretches of hot and sticky weather I am still not sure if I am ready to give up summer quite yet.

Every year I say I have no idea where the summer went. I can hear those senior folks now, "The older you get, the faster time goes." I must share with you that was funnier before I was one of them senior folks.

Having said all of that, I hope you have all taken time in this craziness to enjoy your summer to the fullest, whether swimming in the lake, camping, gardening or just sitting in the shade with a good book. The interesting thing about summer is that so much life happens while we are trying to slow down. It is a time filled with both rest and transition.

For many it has been a mixed bag of summer challenges and celebration. There have been modified graduations, weddings, vacation adventures, times with family and friends, or simply a time of relaxation and reflection. For some, it has been a time full or overflowing with all the business of life, while for others, challenge and loss as we struggle with issues of losing loved ones, health, employment, relationships, our own human limitations and just living life on life terms. For some of us the summer has been a mix of both. It is in these times that I am so grateful that God is ever present in our lives, especially in those moments when it least feels like it.

Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

The only thing that seems to be missing is allowing ourselves to simply be quiet and in the presence of God. I offer you one of my favorite prayers, "Oh God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength. By the might of your spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

I share these things to open our eyes, hearts and spirits to the amazing life and world in which we live. We have spent so much time focusing on what we have lost, what we are missing, who should or should not be doing what, living in regret that we have missed an incredible gift. That incredible gift of celebrating with gratitude this moment in time. The ability to appreciate every day as it comes. Rejoicing with life on life's terms.

That is my takeaway from the past few weeks. Not to waste a moment in anger, regret, jealousy, or resentment. But rather to be kind, compassionate, merciful, and forgiving. To recognize that it is above my pay grade to determine who is worthy and who is not. To be profoundly grateful that on this journey of life I have not received what others thought I may have deserved. To be a reckless sower of God's grace.

As we start to prepare for the fall, I anticipate that we will have an exciting season of change and growth both in our personal and church lives. I look forward to the exciting return of church life as our church family continues to grow, get healthier and stronger in number and Spirit each week. Again, although I am not ready for summer to end, I am excited about the year ahead.

I encourage you to share the good news of our church family with your friends, family and neighbors as we continue to move forward into an exciting future with new opportunities for growth and Ministry. Continue to be persistent inviters. You never know whose life might be touched in a profound way by experiencing the love of God as expressed through our community of faith.

I invite you to come and spend time with us Sunday, in person or virtually, and celebrate each and every moment we have in the sunlight of God's love and grace.

Remember always that wherever you are on life's journey, there is a place for you, and you are always welcome here. May you live Spirit-filled, surrounded by the grace and the love of God.

Take care and be well, Peace
Pastor Ken

Live streaming of Sunday service will continue at 11am. from St. John's Facebook page.

Happy Birthdays in September

9/20 Miriam Guyor
9/20 Georgia Phelan
9/22 Tamara Gorence
9/23 Tom Gorence
9/23 Linda Leonard
9/27 Kristy Buckingham

Anniversaries in September

9/10 Pat & Tom Kaufman
9/22 Denise & Douglas Beattie

Worship Ministry

Volunteers Needed Please sign-up

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

Prayers For

Cindy
Wayne
Harvey & Lynn
Tamara
Families of St. John & St. James

Betty R.
Ben
Cheryl

Betty Reynolds' family has contacted us. She took a fall and is now back home, but is in need of some assistance. If anyone can help with meals or sitting with her, contact her daughter, Lynne Sicken, at 810-531-1581. To call Betty, her number is 810-765-8116; her address is 988 Chartier St., Marine City MI 48039. We wish Betty the best and have her in our prayers at St. John's!



Pay GBC bi 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

CONNECT THE DOTS



CONNECT THE DOTS TO MAKE THREE THINGS TO COLOR.

Fall Poem

THE HARVEST'S CLOSE

by Marie Irish

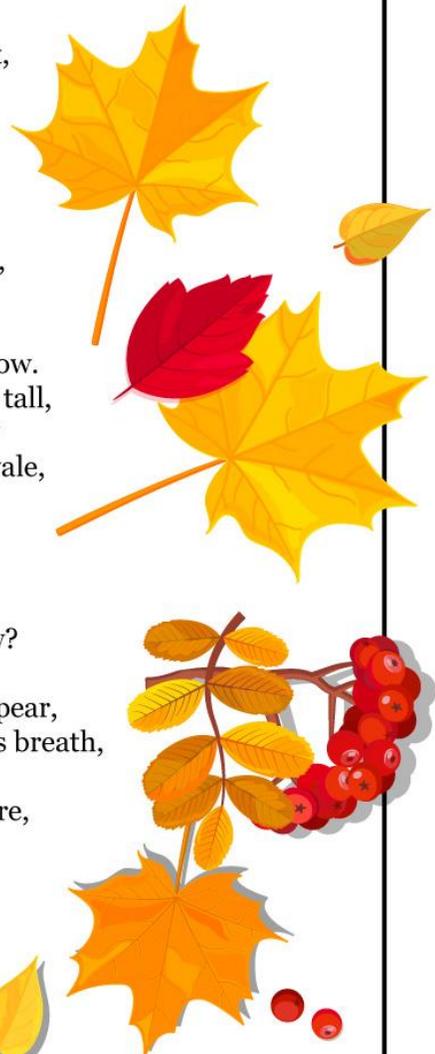
Have you cut the oats in the browning field,
The wheat and corn with their golden yield?
The fields are shorn of the waving wheat,
The corn is cut and gathered in;
The barley and the measures of rye
We've safely stored away in the bin.

Have you garnered the garden's full supply,
And for winter's use laid it prudently by?
We've gathered the garden's lavish yield,
Beans, carrots and beets of ruddy glow,
And housed them diligently away,
Protected from the winter's frost and snow.

Have you picked the nuts from the branches tall,
And the purple grapes from the vines of fall?
We've gleaned the treasures of hill and vale,
The trees we've raided to the top;
And laid away a generous share
Of the corn the children love to pop.

The fruits of the orchards are bending low,
Are the plucked before the rough winds blow?
The rosy apples from the bough,
The plums, the peach and the tempting pear,
We have sheltered from the north wind's breath,
And hoarded them away with care.

Our harvests are gathered from shore to shore,
The bins are all filled and running over.
Since autumn's bounties are garnered in,
And prudently stored away,
From east to west let the nation keep
A joyous harvest day.



Meeting Minutes / Reports

St. John's United Church of Christ

Council Meeting - Amended

June 8, 2020

Present: Georgia Phelan, Shari Faucher, Katie Phelan, Lynn Andrews, and Pastor Ken

1. Call to order at 6:40p.m.
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Ken
3. Roll call - Absent: Don Weichert, Carolyn Hosford, and Dorothy Schultz
4. Agenda: Motion to approve agenda with additions by Shari. Second by Katie.
5. Minutes from the March 9, 2020 meeting presented by Lynn Andrews. Motion to accept by Shari. Second by Katie. Carried.

6. Reports

A. Treasurers Report

Council was given Treasurers' Reports for March, April, and May.

Motion to accept **March** and **April** by Lynn. Second by Shari. Motion to accept **May** by Katie. Second by Lynn. Carried.

1. All church workers were paid with the exception of John, our cleaning man, who refused payment and offered to clean the church for free for one month. We are going to consider the free cleanings as in-kind contributions. Council will think of a way to repay him (gift card)?
2. QuickBooks has been put on hold because of the Covid pandemic.
3. Our online PayPal seems to be working fine.
4. Dorothy has been given information on Autobooks, but council has definitely decided not to go that route.

B. Financial Secretary's Report

Council was given Financial Reports for the months of March, April, and May. Motion to accept **March** and **April** by Lynn. Second by Shari.

Motion to accept **May** by Katie. Second by Lynn. Carried.

C. Mary Martha Guild

1. The guild has not started meeting yet, but plan on having the quilt raffle November 16th.

D. Sunday School

1. Nothing to report.

E. Pastors Report

1. We will continue to stream live. Pastor is concerned about drop in viewers, when the time was changed to 11: 00a.m. We need to encourage people to share about the livestream on Facebook.
2. Ken has noted the there has been a big increase in pastoral calls and visits due to covid.

F. Building and Grounds

1. Council has decided that no extra cleaning needs to be done after Sunday service, due to our cleaning man, John, who comes in on Fridays and cleans.

7. Unfinished business

- A. All calendar dates need to be given to Birdie.
- B. The UCC One Great Hour of Sharing, which was to be in March but due to the pandemic, never took place. Council will re-visit the subject in fall.
- C. Council to review and approve By-laws in July.
- D. Don's to-do list will be addressed in July.
- E. Council needs to try and promote people to sign up for usher, greeter, liturgist, etc.

8. New Business

- A. Reopening the church with some restrictions.
- B. Monthly newsletter is being mailed by Georgia for those who still want to stay home but love the church connection. People attending the service can pick a copy up.
- C. Lynn has requested the use of the church for an event. Miriam and Georgia were both contacted.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:50p.m. by Shari. Second by Lynn.

Submitted by Lynn Andrews
Secretary

**St. John's United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2020**

Present: Carolyn Hosford, Lynn Andrews, Dorothy Schultz, Shari Faucher, Katie Phelan, Georgia Phelan and Pastor Ken

Absent: Don Weichert

1. Call to order at 6:35p.m.
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Ken
3. Roll call – All present except Don Weichert
4. Approval of agenda with additions – Shari. Second by Carolyn. Carried.
5. Approval of amended minutes by Dorothy. Second by Katie. Carried.

6. Reports

A. Treasurers Report presented by Dorothy

Motion to accept report by Lynn. Second by Shari. Carried.

1. QuickBooks is still a work in progress. Ken will follow up.
2. John Gerow has donated his cleaning services to the church. Georgia will contact him and ask if he would like a receipt for his in-kind contribution. Council will put together a gift basket in appreciation.
3. Three scholarships were given out: Alyssa Pollauf and Heather Meldrum for SC4, and Ariana Desero for Macomb Community College.

B. Financial Secretary's Report presented by Carolyn.

Motion by to accept report by Lynn. Second by Shari. Carried.

1. For privacy purposes, PayPal report will show amounts only. No names.

C. Mary Martha Guild

1. The guild is not sure if there will be a rummage sale in the fall, but the quilt raffle is a definite "yes".

D. Sunday School

1. Lynn Reh has retired. Lynn Andrews has volunteered to take over organization of SS, with Pastor's help on curriculum. There will be a meeting planned for late August, early September to go over curriculum and schedules.

E. Pastors Report

1. Pastor Ken is frustrated with the livestream service. It seemed to work for the first 8 weeks, but now there are many issues. Georgia will check with our Internet provider.
2. Attendance has been low but we need to encourage people to continue to donate in order to keep up with the regular bills.

3. Pastor Ken shared that there is a definite increase in pastoral calls and visits.

F. Building and Grounds

1. Don's to-do list will be addressed at a later date.
2. We are still waiting for the Health department to make the final inspection on the kitchen. We would like this done before our Chili-Potato Dinner.

7. Unfinished business

- A. We will continue to keep Birdie informed of calendar dates.
- B. St. John's didn't participate in One Great Hour of Sharing in March due to Covid and the church's closing. Dorothy moved that we contribute to Neighbors in Need in September. Second by Carolyn. Carried.
- C. Council looked over and discussed the bylaws, Georgia will make updates that were discussed and decided upon. Here are a few items that were discussed:
 1. Establish a membership list.
 2. Change the "He" and She" to "They".
 3. Change: that the Treasurer will report all monies and issue a **yearly** report to the congregation instead of quarterly.
 4. We also need to change that a "majority" of members can call for any special meeting to be arranged.
- D. Volunteers are needed for usher, liturgists, greeters, etc.

8. New Business

- A. Re-opening attendance has been low, hopefully, we'll begin to see an increase.
- B. There was a motion made by Carolyn to cancel the church picnic this year. Second by Dorothy. Carried.
- C. We are hoping to have our fall Chili-Potato Dinner. Tentative date is set for October 24
- D. Usage of church – We will contact Georgia (President), Miriam (keeper of the calendar) and also let Birdie (newsletter) know, as well.
- E. Feed for Internet...do we need a faster or updated router? The website is working for online donations, but at this time Facebook donations are not.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:07p.m. by Dorothy. Second by Carolyn. Carried
Next meeting: August 10, 2020. 6:30p.m.

Submitted by Lynn Andrews
Secretary

CD's					
St John's CD	\$8,847.95	\$8,803.78		\$8,847.95	\$8,803.78
Total	\$8,847.95	\$8,803.78		\$89,325.79	\$94,233.15
Respectfully Submitted by,					
Dorothy Schultz					
Treasurer					

Additional Activities

Sunday Services

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's the exact same service.

Council Meetings

Meets have on Monday, September 4th at 6:30pm.

Sunday School

No Sunday School until the fall.

Mary Martha Guild

No meetings until further notice.

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 Outdoor Service

Our Annual **Outdoor Service**, without picnic, will be held on August 30. Bring a chair or we can bring some out from inside. You can sit anywhere you'd like— rows aren't necessary. In case of rain, we'll simply move inside and hold service as we've been doing. Please attend if you are comfortable and, just like indoors, after-service socializing is strictly optional.

Rummage Sale

We'll also be holding an outdoor **Rummage Sale** on September 4 & 5. Being outdoors allows us to space it out. This will be a congregational event, chaired by Georgia Phelan and Miriam Guyor. We will set up on Thursday, September 3, starting at 3:00. Sale hours are Friday, 9-5, and Saturday, 9-3. We will pack up leftovers following the sale and Council member Katie Phelan will accept them at the Blue Water Area Humane Society for a future sale of theirs. This will be a "Set Your Own Price" event with pre-set prices for higher-ticket items only. If you can share our flyers anywhere, please pick some up from the community room.

TO DONATE ITEMS for the Rummage Sale, you can bring them to church on Sundays or call Georgia Phelan to make arrangements for other drop off or pick up options. Her number is 586-242-2410. If you can volunteer to help out, let Georgia know. All proceeds will go to St. John's general fund.

St. John's UCC Annual

OUTDOOR

RUMMAGE



SALE



**Friday,
September 4**

9 am-5 pm

Saturday, September 5

9 am-3 pm

527 N. William St., Marine City

Multi-family

Household, furnishings, clothing, more

**“Name Your Own Price”
pricing**

All proceeds benefit St. John's United Church of Christ

Food Pantry

God's Grace Through Prayer, our St. John's Prayer Group, is sponsoring a Pantry Box. The box is in the Fellowship Room. We are accepting any non-perishable items. These will be donated to the Downriver Helping Hands and other organizations in the area. Please help support those in need in our Community. Thank you!

Message from St. Johns Council President

As of today (August 19), we are planning for our Outdoor Service on August 30 and Outdoor Rummage Sale on September 4 & 5. If these events have not occurred as you read this, please consider participating as you are able.

Covid 19 has been grueling for so many of us. Our Church Council hopes these events help to continue some of the missions for our congregation and our community and bring a little normalcy to our lives. We have been very cognizant of the precautions needed at this time and are confident those can be respected and yet still keep some of our church life intact. If you couldn't participate in either of these events, we continue to pray for the time when we can all be together again. As for our October 24 Chili Potato Dinner, we're still waiting to see if it's feasible, perhaps as a take-out-only event.

I'd like to thank a few folks who do so much for St. John's behind the scenes. Bill and Mary Galvin and grandsons Jacob and Luke came one day and cleaned up the landscaping and even cleaned out the gutters. John Gerow, our cleaning person, has donated his services since we opened back up. My hubby, Mike, cleaned up fishflies several times and continues maintenance on our parking lot and along the curbs (weeds). If you or someone else contributes in some way, please let me know and I'll include them here, too.

As I mentioned in our special August issue, giving at St. John's is off some from previous years. Many of our members have continued to give as they always have and for that we are sincerely appreciative. We encourage all to keep giving as you can to support our church. If you are not able to give at service on Sundays, you can mail your gifts to 527 N. William St., Marine City MI 48039, or through our website: <https://stjohnsmarinecity.org/>

September is UCC's Neighbor in Need appeal month. Look for your envelope soon and give as you can.

I have all of you in my prayers and hope you enjoy the last days of summer- a favorite time of mine, right before I start complaining that my feet are cold!

Georgia Phelan

Mary Martha Guild – Quilt Raffle

MARY MARTHA GUILD QUILT RAFFLE (ST. JOHN'S UCC of MARINE CITY)

DRAWING: MONDAY, NOV. 16, 2020

WHITE WITH MULTIPLE BLUES

QUILT SIZE: 104" W X 101" L (KING SIZE)

WITH 2 MATCHING STANDARD PILLOWCASES

\$10.00 A TICKET OR 3 FOR \$25.00

SEE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FOR TICKETS.

LYNN REH, CAROLYN ANDREWS,

BEA GUBANCHE, JUDY LESTER,

MARILEE SCHULTZ, MARY LESTERSON,

BRENDA FISHER, LOIS WEICHERT,

CAROLYN HOSFORD, MARIAN McKELLAR,

TAMARA GORENCE, LORETTA PRANGE



Scripture Reading for September

Sunday, September 6
Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost
Pentecost
Ex 12: 1-14 and Ps 149
15 : 1b-
Ezek 33: 7-11 and Ps 119; 33-40
Rom 13: 8-14
8-13
Matt 18: 15-20
Remember, Restore, Renew

Sunday, September 20
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost
Ex 16: 2-15 and Ps 105: 1-6, 37-45
Jon 3: 10-4:11 ad Ps 145: 1-8
9
Phil 1: 21-30
Matt 20: 1-6
Tensions in the Wilderness

Sunday, September 13
Fifteenth Sunday after
Ex 14: 19-31 and Ps 114 or Ex
11, 20-21
Gen 50: 15-21 and Ps 103; (1-7),
Rom 14; 1-12
Matt 18: 21-35
Road to Freedom

Sunday, September 27
Seventeenth Sunday after
Ex 17: 1-7 and Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16
Ezek 18; 1-4, 25-32 and Ps 25: 1-
Phil 2; 1-13
Matt 21: 23-32
God's Sustaining Presence

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We're on the Web!
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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER