



Newaygo United Methodist Church News

We are a caring and supportive community where all are welcome. We are God's Dreamseekers who seek to make disciples in ways that show love, respect and service to our community.

The Greatest Gift

What to give! What to give! Every year we go through the same wondering, what to give! Christmas seems to bound toward us as the first hints of coolness settle the summer into fall. Before we know it the time has come for thinking about what to give! After all, isn't that what Christmas is all about? Christmas is about giving, but we cannot be true to Christmas unless we remember what it was that was given to us in the first place. God found that his people just weren't getting it. The religious institutions of the time were centered on their own survival and how to follow the rules and regulations. The people might have fallen into apathy or worse yet, not treating each other justly and righteously. With neighbor sparring with neighbor, families split apart over small differences, no place for the widow or single or childless woman in society, children having no voice, the poor not being cared for, cheating on taxes, (hmmm, sounds a bit like us) this world needed something different. God had a way to draw people back to him and into right living.

God gifted us with the greatest gift of all, a tiny baby, his own son. Here was one who would grow and go through all the joys and sorrows of living until the time was right that he would start his ministry and actually begin to show people how to live in the light of God, how to live the way God really intended us to live. Here was a way to try to live right and when we found ourselves falling off the track, we are pulled back to try again and again. The gift of forgiveness and salvation are ours through this one we call Jesus, this only Son of God.



So if we have been given this wonderful and great gift, why not answer our wondering, what to give, with the greatest gift we can give, the story of Jesus, his birth, life, death and resurrection. Would it hurt to slip an easy to read gift Bible into another gift. Would it hurt to find a story or poem of inspiration or a daily devotion (upper room maybe) and include it as well? But most of all what a gift it would be to tell the Christmas story on Christmas morning before the gifts are open or the night before if we open them then. Who knows what seed will be planted with the love in which those gifts are given. Merry Christmas to you all from my heart to yours. Have a grace filled holiday season!

Pastor Kathy

Christian Education News



Children's Christmas Play
Sunday, December 16, 2012
9:30am



Everyone is welcome!

THANK YOU!

Thank you very much to Bill & Lois VanDyke for all the pumpkins they so graciously donated for the Sunday School Children to decorate at their Harvest Gathering. They were enjoyed very much.



NOTE: There will be no Children's Sunday School from December 16th – January 6th. Enjoy your Christmas season!



Soup's On !

Each year, Newaygo Area Ministerial Association holds soup's on during Advent. A free will offering is taken and the money raised is used by the Ministerial Association to help persons in our community with various needs.

Soup's on is hosted by different area churches on Wednesday. Please plan to support this wonderful ecumenical program by attending each Wednesday for lunch. After sharing soup each week there is a short devotional.

Soup's On Schedule: *@ Noon*

Wednesday, December 5th
St. Bartholomew Catholic Church
(599 West Brooks)

Wednesday, December 12th
Newaygo United Methodist Church
(101 State Road)

Wednesday, December 19th
Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ
(432 Quarterline SE)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

UMW Meeting Dates

All women are welcome at any of the following meeting. Join us when you are able.

Longcore Circle – December 6th @ 12:30pm meet at Dorothy Sibley's home. This will be a pot luck Christmas lunch.

UMW-Ladies Night Out – December 11, 2012 @ 6:30pm at NUMC (*this is Christmas by Candle Light and is open to all persons*)

Mary Martha Circle – Tuesday, December 18, 2012 @ 12pm (noon) at Barb Dietz home. Potluck lunch.

Thanksgiving Baskets

On November 13, 2012 Ladies Night Out met and we enjoyed wonderful fellowship as we assembled baskets for persons in our church. Each person at Ladies Night out choose someone to deliver a basket to and the baskets were delivered and each person delivered to received a surprise visit from someone in the church. We have received many thank you notes for the visits and the baskets.



The thank you cards are in the church office if you would like to see them, but the ladies that received them would like you all to know how much they loved the surprise visits and the little bit of early Christmas as they looked through their baskets. They were very much appreciated! Thank You to all who donated items, packed baskets and delivered baskets. It was wonderful.



Christmas by Candle Light

Tuesday, December 11th

6:30pm

Everyone is Welcome! Mark your calendars!



Small program including Christmas carols, music by Barry & Kathy Badge, Christmas story & poems. Everyone is invited to this wonderful night of fun and fellowship to kick off the Christmas Celebrations.

We still need 5 persons or groups to decorate tables and we are still in need of persons to provide snacks. If you would like to decorate a table or are willing to provide a snack, please let Jen Larsen know ASAP.

Prayer Shawls

Knitters and people who can crochet wanted – knit at home or join us at Vera's House on Wednesday's at 8:30am. Some yarn has been donated for our shawls. See Dolores Cook, Jackie Pederson or Millie Stine.

The prayer shawls are given to persons who are struggling with something in their life. They provide a bit of comfort to let them know someone cares and is praying for them.



2012 Mission Giving

Benevolence	\$ 855.00
Christian Education	\$ 84.75
Church Scholarship Fund	\$ 200.00
Christmas Family	\$ 324.50
Coats for Kids	\$ 959.00
Community House	\$ 100.00
CROP Walk	\$3,442.00
Dresses for Africa	\$ 525.00
Emma Graham Scholarship	\$ 775.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 124.00
Haiti School Kits	\$ 264.00
Haiti School Kits- shipping	\$ 50.00
Hearts to support cancer patients	\$ 120.00
Hoovers	\$ 71.50
Human Relations	\$ 87.50
Kids Hope-local	\$ 100.00
LOVE - food pantry	\$ 725.50
LOVE INC.	\$ 100.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 191.15
Peace with Justice	\$ 56.55
Mel Trotter Ministries	\$ 119.00
Malaria Fund-W. MI. Conference	\$ 63.56
Native American Ministry	\$ 93.50
Samaritan Christmas Boxes	\$ 165.00
Team Kegan Chest	\$ 250.00
Thanksgiving Baskets	\$ 225.00
True North- children's program	\$ 100.00
UMCOR- tornado relief	\$ 102.51
UMCOR- hurricane Sandy	\$ 397.58
UMC Camps	\$ 89.78
World Communion	\$ 75.00
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	\$10,836.38

“Give and it will be given to you. ... For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”
Luke 6:38

LOVE INC

Please continue to donate toiletries for Love INC. This is the time of year where more and more persons find the need to use the food pantry. Everything you donate makes a difference in the life of someone else!

Christmas Boxes

Our giving tree in the narthex will have ornaments that will list what we need for our Christmas boxes. You may purchase the listed item and bring it in to the tree in a sack. You do not need to wrap your items. Please indicate the value of your purchase for our mission report. Volunteers will pack and wrap the boxes for giving. The recipients are children from the elementary school and our own community. If you would like to help with the packing and wrapping or if you have questions, please see Jan Fisher.

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above.” James 1:17a



Future Mission Concerns

Dec. 9- Collection for Vera House
 Dec. 23- U. M. Student Sunday

A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him, into the presence of the great.

December Anniversaries

12/10 Bill & Lois VanDyke
12/23 Kenneth & Kathryn Cain

Happy Anniversary



December Birthdays

12/1 Nancy Ferguson
12/3 Irene Johnson
12/7 Lillian Wright
12/11 Danielle Clark
12/13 Dorothy Besemer
12/17 Melven Carr
12/18 Dolores Cook
12/21 Taylor Prins
12/26 Dave VanderHyde
12/30 Marilyn Dawson



Worship Helpers for December

December 2

Liturgist: Nancy Clark
Acolyte: Colby Brooks

Inside Ushers: Harriet Kiper & Jean Reynhout
Outside Ushers: Vern & Carolyn Boose
Projector: Elijah Brooks
Sound: Deb Prins

December 9

Liturgist: Susanne Geerdink
Acolyte: Taylor Prins

Inside Ushers: Ruth Merritt & Millie Stine
Outside Ushers: Anne Henning & Jan Fisher
Projector: Taylor Prins
Sound: Deb Prins

December 16

Liturgist: Joe Groff
Acolyte: Elijah Brooks

Inside Ushers: Sue Osborn & Jackie Pederson
Outside Ushers: Joan Faulkner & Dolores Cook
Projector: Elijah Brooks
Sound: Deb Prins

December 23

Liturgist: Kay Pardonnet
Acolyte: Elizabeth Brooks

Inside Ushers: Vern & Carolyn Boose
Outside Ushers: Carline Knoll & Harriet Kiper
Projector: Taylor Prins
Sound: Deb Prins

December 30

Liturgist: Ron Pardonnet
Acolyte: Colby Brooks

Inside Ushers: Dolores Cook & Barb Dietz
Outside Ushers: Barb Dietz & Ruth Merritt
Projector: Elijah Brooks
Sound: Deb Prins

Cherished Memories

Thank you to all who lent us your precious collections to display during the Christmas Walk. A special thank you to Brenda Huckins Bonter and Cathy Badge for lending their eye's for presentation and setting all the collections up for display.



If you can't be here when scheduled please call the church office.

Church Staff

Pastor: Kathy Groff

Pastor Kathy is in the church office on Monday and Wednesday Mornings and other times by appointment.

Phone: 231-652-6581

Email: kthlngriff@gmail.com

Administrative: Deb Prins

Deb is in the office Monday –Thursday from 9am to 2:15pm

Phone: 231-652-6581

Email: debprins@sbcglobal.net

Kids Hope Director: LeeAnn Hesse

Phone: 231-652-7435

Email: l.hesse@sbcglobal.net

Organist: Lois VanDyke

Phone: 231-924-2329

Email: loisvandyke@hotmail.com

Choir Director: Cathy Badge

Phone: 231-652-1478

Email: cbadge@riverview.net

Custodian: Karen Winchel

Phone: 231-689-0677

Email: sahoka_farms@yahoo.com

Community Events

December 9

6:00pm

Ecumenical Christmas Concert
At The Grant Fine Arts Center

We are looking for several persons who are willing to help provide cookies and a couple persons to help set up the cookies and then to help clean up after the concert.

Please call the church office ASAP if you are willing to help.

Save the date: Friday, April 26, 2013

Spring Christian Music Event

@ Fremont High School – Brand new building!

Previous Concerts: Bid Daddy Weave,
Sonicflood, 33miles, Barlow Girl, Sidewalk

Prophets

<http://www.facebook.com/cureusonline>

Sponsored by: NCureus and Love INC



Treasurers Report

November is a time of Thanksgiving. Thank you for being such a giving and generous church. Each month we are able to meet the needs of the church and we are also on track to pay 100% of our Ministry Shares again this year. THANKS BE TO GOD!

Contributions through October 31, 2012 -	\$8,506.00
Expenses through October 31, 2012 –	\$7,639.00
Total Overage -	\$ 867.00

If you have any questions or would like to see a more detailed treasurer's report please call Deb Prins at 231-652-6581 or see the copy of the reports posted on bulletin board in the church office.

Please prayerfully consider how during this season of giving you will continue to support the ministries of Newaygo United Methodist Church with your prayers, time, talents and treasures. Have a blessed Christmas.

Newaygo United Methodist Church Activities

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am – Worship 11:00am – Sunday School for All Ages – Play Practice	3 9am - 12pm Pastor Kathy's Office Hours 1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study	4	5 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy's Office Hours 12pm – Soup's On @ St. Barts	6 Pastor Kathy's Day Off 12:30pm – Longcore Circle @ Dorothy Sibley's	7	8
9 9:30am – Worship 11:00am – Sunday School for All Ages – Play Practice LOVE INC OFFERING 6:00pm – Ecumenical Christmas Concert	10 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy's Office Hours 1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study	11 6:30pm – Ladies Night Out	12 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy's Office Hours 12pm – Soup's On @ NUMC	13 Pastor Kathy's Day Off	14	15
16 9:30am – Worship 11:00am – Sunday School for All Ages – No Children's Sunday School	17 9am - 12pm Pastor Kathy's Office Hours 1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study	18 9:30am – Mary Martha Circle 6:30pm – Finance Meeting 7:00pm – Church Council Meeting	19 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy's Office Hours 12pm – Soup's On @ NCUCC	20 Pastor Kathy's Day Off	21 Office Closed	22
23 9:30am – Worship 11:00am – Sunday School for All Ages – No Children's Sunday School NOISY OFFERING	24 Church Office Closed 7:00pm – Christmas Eve Service	25 Church Office Closed MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 Pastor Kathy's Day Off	28	29
30 9:30am – Worship 11:00am – Sunday School for All Ages – No Children's Sunday School	31 Church Office Closed					

If you have questions, concerns or an activity to add to the calendar, please call the church office at 231-652-6581 or email Deb Prins at debprins@sbcglobal.net.

Please be sure to check the church calendar before scheduling your events. A printed calendar can be found on the corner of the desk in the church office. THANK YOU!



Newaygo United Methodist Church
101 State Street
P.O. Box 366
Newaygo, MI 49337

December 2012 Newsletter

Join us for worship on Sunday morning at 9:30 am with fellowship following.

Sunday School for all ages at 11:00am

Newaygo United Methodist Church

*Newaygo United Methodist Church
Newsletter*

*Deadline for articles is 4:00PM on the 20th day
of each month in the church office.*

The Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.



SEEKING
God's Will

STRIVING
To Make
Disciples

SERVING
Our Community
With Love