

*Is Prayer Worthwhile?*

I have been working through a study on prayer by Philip Yancey. In his second session he asks four very important questions about prayer. Many of us think of prayer as a time for asking for something from God. But prayer is so much more. It is our way of showing God who we truly are and of finding out who God truly is. So here are the four questions:

1) Is prayer worthwhile? Most of us would say “yes” but do we know why? The most important answer to the question of worthwhileness is that prayer is a way to bring us and God together.

2) Does prayer make any difference? If we don’t pray we effectively cut off our sense of God and our ability to get to know God better. We can get burned out in our work for God. God is the one able to sustain us and give us a great sense of fulfillment and we give God the opportunity to reveal himself to us through Jesus.

3) Why pray if God already knows everything? The one thing that really impresses me about God is that he does already know all about us, but He cares about our hearts and what we care about. God wants to hear our hearts. Out of the vastness and expansiveness of the universe, God cares about each one of us, tiny pin points in the whole of everything. And it is when we share our cares with Him that we allow Him the opportunity to give us what we truly need.

4) Does God really care about *me*? Yes, God cares about the intimate details of our lives. God is not trapped in finite time and space. God can share equal time with all of his creatures and can spend as much time with us as he wants because he can deal in infinite time and space. God cares about each one of us. Now that’s amazing!

So maybe we can begin to think of our prayer time as more a time of sharing with God rather than just a time for asking and praying for ourselves and others.

From Max Lucado – Live Loved - Experience God’s Presence in Everyday Life

*And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.*

Luke 12:29-30



### Inside This Issue

Pastors Ponderings 1

Christian Education 2

Treasurers Report 2

UMW 3

Mission Minutes 4-5

Pastors Resource 6

Worship Helpers 7

Calendar of Events 8

Renovate Conference 9

God’s Dream Seekers News

# Pastors Ponderings

By Pastor Kathleen Groff

###### Newaygo United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 366, Newaygo, MI 49337; email:umcnew@newaygoumc.com; phone: 231-652-6581; website: www.newaygoumc.com

February 2015

Volume 2, Issue 2

*Treasurer’s Report*

Please prayerfully consider how you can help support the ministries of Newaygo United Methodist Church in 2015.

Contributions through

January 31, 2014 - *$ 7,740.52*

Expenses through

January 31, 2014 - $13,239.94

**Total ($5,499.42)**

Please keep in mind that in January we paid a lump sum of $3,745 for property insurance; $857 for City of Newaygo Special Assessment and many operating expenses are slightly higher for the winter months.

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



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Men, come join us on **Wednesdays at 8:30am at the City Limits Restaurant**

(next to McDonalds).

What a great time at the men's breakfast!! We talk about everything from deflated footballs to tombstones to politics to sports to religion. You name it no topic is off the table. Ron mentioned the atheists tombstone that said "Here I am all dressed up and no place to go!" Glad to see Stan back after his illness and welcome newly retired Dale. Of course Vern complained that the reason the Pastor has a misplaced rib is because she hit him so hard on Sunday. He said his shoulder is still sore!!! It sounds like Ken and Cathy really had a great pizza eating tour of Italy! And Ken couldn't wait to get home and have a good ol American hamburger! We meet every Wednesday guys, so stop on by and enjoy good Christian fun.

Joe Groff



Nancy Ferguson

Jean Bumstead

Wayne Bumstead

Bill & Freda Corrigan

June Wade

Al Winchel

Marilyn Dawson

Chuck Suess

Peace in the World

*If you have a prayer request or person you would like added to the monthly prayer list, please let Deb Prins know and we will add them to the newsletter each month.*

**Psalm 41:3**  
*The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.*

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Joe Groff

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**Sunday School**

For all ages every Sunday at 11am

*Christian Education Meeting*

*Tuesday, March 3rd @ 6:30pm*

**Sunday School Sledding Party**

*MARK YOUR CALENDARS*

*Tentative Date – Saturday February 14th*

*@ 10am*

*Place to be determined. Watch Sunday Worship Bulletin for more details.*



**FYI: Friday, March 13 @ 6pm – Saturday, March 14th – Sunday School overnighter**

**UMW – Membership Counts**

United Methodist Women is the official women’s organization of the United Methodist Church. Its membership is voluntary and open to all women committed to spreading the gospel through mission work.

Since 1869 women in the Methodist tradition have been organized with the purpose of being in mission with women, children and youth. United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations believed all human beings are of sacred worth, therefore deserving of dignity, justice and wellbeing. United Methodist Women members continue to pledge their support to meet the needs; advocate for justice and honor the lives of all women, children and youth around the world.

**MEMBERSHIP COUNTS! The contribution of each member of the organization (YOU) is a gift that brings about change and betterment to all of us – as individuals, members of society and members of the United Methodist Church.**

Second Timothy 1:6 says, “I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you.” This gift is constantly rekindled in the lives of United Methodist Women members and persons whose lives are affected by the dedication and generosity of those members.

The generosity and dedication of United Methodist Women members allows the organization to engage in mission in more than 100 mission institutions in the United States, and programs and projects in more than 80 countries around the world. The focus in every place is the life of every woman and child. How can we do unto them as we would like to have done unto us? How can we help make sure they have what we, women in the United States, unconsciously enjoy?

We invite you to join this creative, supportive fellowship of women of all ages, ethnicities and economic, social and educational background with the common goal of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ though witness and work.

Newaygo United Methodist Church has 3 different UMW meetings so that you are able to work at least one into your schedule.

***We look forward to having you join us when and where you are able.***

**United Methodist Women’s Meetings**

* **Longcore Circle –** We will not be meeting in January and February. Please watch bulletin and future newsletters for time and meeting place for March 3, 2015
* **Ladies Night Out** –Tuesday February 10 @ 6:30pm – We will have a business meeting and then we will break off into groups to make some valentine treats and then do a short study on “LOVE” of God
* **Mary Martha Circle –** Tuesday, February 17 at 9:30am. All women are welcome.

**Little Dresses for Africa**

**Dresses are available to be finished. Please see Barb Deitz.**

**Changing lives one little dress at a time…**

Little Dresses for Africa is a non-profit 501c3, Christian organization, which provides relief to the children of Africa. **Simple dresses are made out of pillow cases, and distributed through the orphanages, churches and schools in  Africa to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are *worthy!***



LENT DEVOTIONAL

 We will once again be creating our own 40 days of Lent Devotional booklet. We are looking for your stories of God moments, Holy Ghost goose bump times and other meaningful writings you would like included.

The deadline to submit your stories, poems, scriptures, songs and etc. will be February 8th to give time to put the book together and have it printed for you on Sunday, February 22nd the first Sunday of Lent!

*Be Blessed!*



**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

NUMC will be starting a new scholarship for non-traditional students in our church who are attending or will be attending college or trade school. Right now we have several who are taking college courses.

The scholarship fund has been depleted and we are asking you to prayerfully consider whether you can make a donation to the scholarship fund.

You can make donations by marking them scholarship fund and place them in the offering plate on Sunday’s. You may also mail your donations to Newaygo UMC, P.O. Box 366, Newaygo, MI 49337

If you have any questions please contact Kathy Cain at 652-7976.



# Mission Minutes

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti’s 2010 earthquake or Hurricane Sandy of 2012—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions felt entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act. So don’t be fooled by the word committee.

Since 1940, when UMCOR’s forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we’ve continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn’t something “they” do; it’s something “we” do. When You Give You Equip Christ’s Body to Serve in His Name. That’s because your generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church’s compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded

When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded

When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded

And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus’ name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through One Great Hour of Sharing. In fact, it’s your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

Not “they.” We.

Our next Noisy Offering will be Feb 15 for One Great Hour of Sharing, please help those who cannot help themselves.

Mission Committee

* **Longcore Circle –** We will not be meeting in January and February. Please watch bulletin and future newsletters for time and meeting place for March 3, 2015
* **UMW-Ladies Night Out** –Tuesday February 10 @ 6:30pm – We will have a business meeting and then we will break off into groups to make some valentine treats and do a short study on “LOVE” of God
* **Mary Martha Circle –** Tuesday, February 17 at 9:30am. All women are welcome.

Please bring a basket or box to hold approximately 50 pounds of food. Open to all who are in need of food assistance.

* Monday, February 2 - 5pm @ United Methodist Church - **FREMONT**
* Friday, February 6 - 10am @ St. Joseph Catholic Church - **WHITE CLOUD -** Sponsored by Local Area Churches
* Saturday, Feb. 7 - 10am @ Pine Grove Comm. Church - **CROTON/HOWARD CITY**
* Wednesday, Feb. 11 - 5pm @ Hesperia Community Ed – **HESPERIA -** Sponsored by Local Area Churches
* Wednesday, Feb. 11 - 5:30p @ Church of the Living Christ – **FREMONT -** Call to pre-register 231-924-4670
* Thursday, Feb. 12 - 3pm @ Amazing Grace Acres Church **BITELY/BROHMAN**
* Saturday, Feb. 14 - 9:30am @ First Christian Reformed Church- **FREMONT**
* Tuesday, February 17 - 4:30pm @ Northland Church of Christ - **GRANT/NEWAYGO**
* Wednesday, Feb. 18 - 10am @ First Baptist Church of **WOODLAND PARK**
* Saturday, Feb. 21 - 1pm @ Grant Assembly of God- **GRANT**
* Tuesday, February 24 - 5pm @ River Valley Community Church-**NEWAYGO**
* Wednesday, Feb. 25- 10am @ TrueNorth Community Services- **FREMONT**
* Wednesday, Feb. 25 - 5pm @ Hesperia Community Education-**HESPERIA- s**ponsored by Local Area Churches

**\***Changes may occasionally occur. Please check the Hi-Lites notice published weekly to confirm accuracy.





**2014 Year End**

**Mission Giving Report**

Accident Victims Fund $ 192.09

African Dresses $ 906.00

Bible School gift bags $ 100.00

Camp Scholarship $ 100.00

Camp Sunday $ 91.50

Christmas Families $ 640.37

Coats for Kids $ 61.00

CROP Walk $2,504.00

Day in the Park $ 801.56

G. R. Tornado Relief $ 250.00

Habitat for Humanity $ 173.00

Heifer International $ 202.12

Hoovers $ 101.50

Human Relations $ 90.00

Love Food Pantry $ 332.03

Mel Trotter Meals $ 114.50

Native American $ 92.00

No More Malaria $ 198.29

One Hour of Sharing $ 76.50

Peace with Justice $ 66.50

Scholarship Fund $ 100.00

School Kits $ 326.47

Thanksgiving Bags $ 240.00

Toys for Tots $ 200.00

UMCOR for U.S. $ 200.00

U. M. Student Sun. $ 68.00

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

$8,627.43

This report represents what our church gave last year to aid others and promote God’s love and concern for those around the world who are in need. We supported families locally, nationally and internationally. The Mission committee thanks each of you for your contributions of time, energy and money. THANK YOU and may God Bless You!

Newaygo County Mobile Food Pantry



**A Sad Michigan Passing**

Please join me in remembering a great icon of the entertainment community.

The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and trauma complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71.   
  
Please join me in remembering a great icon of the entertainment community.   
  
Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, The California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies, and Captain Crunch. The grave site was piled high with flours.   
  
Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described him as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded. Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers.   
  
He was not considered a very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Despite being a little flaky at times and a crusty old man he was still considered a positive roll model for millions.   
  
He is survived by his wife Play Dough, two children, John Dough and Jane Dough, plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father, Pop Tart.   
  
The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes. If this made you smile…pass it on!

**Pastor’s Resource List**

We all love our Pastor and would love to keep her as long as possible. One way to do this is to give her all the help we can. We all know that we are an important part of the ministry of the church of Love. The Pastor cannot be expected to do it all. Here is one way we can help: We can become part of a resource team to help our Pastor minister to those in need.

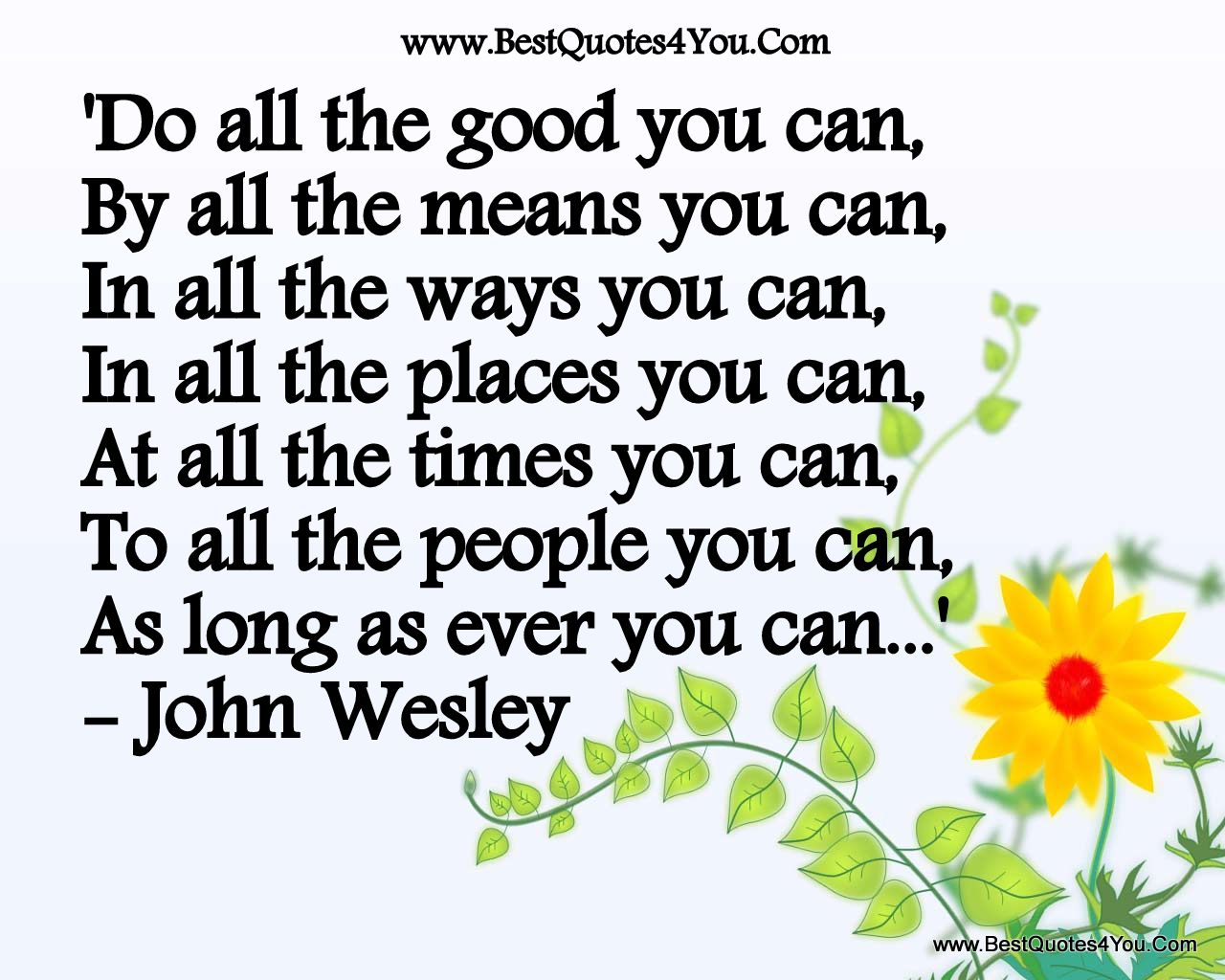
This could include; driving persons to Dr., pick up medicine etc. The church has at times received emergency requests for transportation help. Rather than have the Pastor drop everything and run to drive, we could volunteer to do it.

Another way to help would be to make yourself available to visit those in need of a visit from the church in place of the pastor.

A third possibility would be to take in a food dish to help a family in an emergency.

John Wesley’s philosophy is “DO GOOD”. Here is our chance to do good. We can become part of our **Pastor’s Resource List**. Look for volunteer sign-up sheets at coffee hour on Sunday Mornings.

*Ron Pardonnet*



If you need help with something, please give the church office a call. We don’t know you need help unless you tell us. Please call 231-652-6581 if you are in need and we will try to find those within the church that can help.

2015 Pancake

Breakfast

Saturday, February 28

Serving 8am-11am

All you can eat pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy and American fries, drink & fruit.

Mark your calendars today! Invite your friends and neighbors!

**If you can help please see Jean Reynhout ASAP!**





**February 1**  
**Liturgist:**  Carline Knoll

**Febraury 22**   
**Liturgist:**  Nancy Clark

**Acolyte:**  Blake Larsen  
**Inside Ushers:** Jean Reynhout & Ruth Merritt  
**Outside Ushers:** Deb Prins & Jane Bode Fowler

**Projector:** Taylor Prins

**Sound:** Deb Prins

**Acolyte:**  Elizabeth Brooks  
**Inside Ushers:** Ron & Kay Pardonnet  
**Outside Ushers:** Harriet Kiper & Joan Faulkner

**Projector:** Deb Prins

**Sound:**  Taylor Prins

**February 8**  
**Liturgist:**  Ron Pardonnet



Worship Helpers Needed!

Acolyte

Liturgist

Projectionist

Sound

Usher

If you would like to be added to the list to help on Sunday mornings please contact the church office at 231-652-6581 or debprins@sbcglobal.net

**Acolyte:**  Gabriella Brooks  
**Inside Ushers:** Dolores Cook & Ruth Merritt  
**Outside Ushers:** Jen Larsen & Carline Knoll

**Projector:** Elizabeth Brooks

**Sound:** Deb Prins

**February 15**  
**Liturgist:**  Brenda Huckins Bonter

**Acolyte:**  Morgan Pope  
**Inside Ushers:** Vern & Carolyn Boose

**Outside Ushers:** Millie Stine & Dianna Weaver

**Projector:** Jen Larsen

**Sound:** Need Volunteer

**February Birthday’s**

2/2 Sarah Bainbridge

2/5 Calvin Deitz

2/12 Donald Simington

2/14 Jo Bode

2/14 Edna Schilling

2/17 Dan Schilling

2/18 Stanley Fisher

2/20 Patti Venneman

2/21 Ron Hood

2/28 Julie Berwald

2/29 Jared Wright





*2/8 Steve & Liz Moore*

*2/13 Dick & Sally Mouthaan*

*May God bless you and your family on this day and every day.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
| **1**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for all ages  **COMMUNION SUNDAY** | 2  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study | 3 | 4  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  7pm – Choir Practice | 5  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 6 | 7 |
| **8**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for all ages | 9  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study | 10  6:30 –Ladies Night Out – “God’s Love” Celebration | 11  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  7pm – Choir Practice | 12  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 13 | 14  10am – Sunday School Sledding Party |
| **15**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for all ages | 16  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study | 17  9:30am – Mary Martha Circle | 18  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  **7pm – Ash Wednesday Service**  7pm – Choir Practice | 19  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 20 | 21 |
| **22 NOISY OFFERING**  9:30am – Worship **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  11am – Sunday School for all ages | 23  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study | 24 | 25  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  7pm – Choir Practice | 26  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 27 | 28  4th Saturday Pancake Breakfast |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Newaygo United Methodist Church Activities –2015



RENOVATE Conference

March 21, 2015

Bob Farr is the Director of the Center for Congregational Excellence at the Missouri Annual Conference. He is experienced with developing the Pastor Leadership Development program, church consulting, relocations, mergers and new church starts. Bob is the architect of the HCI “Healthy Church Initiative” program currently being used in 12 conferences including the WMC where it’s known as Vital Church Initiative (VCI). Bob is the author of two books “Renovate or Die – 10 Ways to Focus Your Church in Mission,” “Get Their Name- Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships” with a third coming spring 2015.

**Conference Schedule**

8:30am Registration begins (breakfast rolls, coffee available)

9am Opening remarks

9:10am Prayer

9:15am-Noon Plenary: Evaluating what needs to change with Q & A to follow presentation

Noon-1pm Lunch Break: lunch is provided

(The GR District Conference will take place during the lunch break)

1pm-3:30pm Plenary: How to make those necessary changes with Q & A to follow presentation

Tickets for this event are $20 per person and include your food and beverages

Checks should be made payable to WMC Treasurer and mailed to:

Grand Rapids District Office

Attn: Liz Bode

11 Fuller Ave. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**Free Weekend Happenings**

9:30am and 11am services at Otsego UMC (223 E. Allegan St., Otsego, 49078) Bob Farr will preach

3-5pm Cornerstone UMC (1675 84th St., Caledonia, 49316) will host a Q & A session with Bob Farr designed for churches involved in VCI currently or those considering VCI. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with one of the primary architects of the VCI process to ask your specific questions or to gain new insight to your understanding of the VCI process.

If your church team is interested in attending the afternoon event at Cornerstone UMC, please contact Liz in the GR District Office 616.459.4503, x-1211 or grdistrict@wmcumc.org to add your church to the list.

***If you are interested in attending this conference with Pastor Kathy please let her or the church office know as soon as possible. We will register the group together. Get inspired and let the light of Jesus shine through you this upcoming Easter Season.***

*We’re on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.newaygoumc.com](http://www.newaygoumc.com)

or check us out on facebook: Newaygo United Methodist Church

We are God’s Dream Seekers who seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ in ways that show love, respect and service to our community.

Mission

Newaygo United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 366

Newaygo, MI 49337

Join us on Sunday Mornings for Worship at 9:30am with fellowship following. Sunday School for all ages at 11am.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding worship services and activities at Newaygo United Methodist Church please feel free to call the church office Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm.

##### Newaygo United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 366

Newaygo, MI 49337

##### Phone:

231-652-6581

##### Fax:

231-652-6601

##### E-Mail:

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