

We want to thank everbody for all the CHRISTmas cards and gifts. What a wonderful church family you all are. With the deepest appreciation and thanks from the bottom of our hearts, thank you. We are truly blessed to be a part of this church.

Joe & Kathy



*And Then There Were 12 More*

Did you realize that there are 12 more months to get things right in our lives as we begin a new year? The Past 12 are over and gone. We may have learned a lot from this year past or not hardly learned anything at all. We certainly have had a variety of experiences in those past 12 months. A few experiences we would rather not have had. A few we appreciated more than words can tell. But these next 12 months are an open, unwritten book, ready for the pages to be filled in. We will not have choice in some of the events that take place. Others will occur because of our choices. Many will be planned, and many will not. But the new year is upon us whether we want it to be here or not. (I am finding that the older I get, the more I don’t want that new year to hurry on so much)

So maybe our task in greeting the new year is to face it with faith and courage. We know that God is with us, and we know that living by faith is our task In life. But we also know that often we don’t want to “remember” our task and we would rather go our own way. But our faith, (God) keeps calling us back to who we truly are, people who follow Jesus. So perhaps it would behoove us to get better at practicing our faith. That means being more loving in the ways that Jesus loved, treating others with respect and love. It means forgiving where it is needed. It means giving of ourselves and our “God-love” to others. It means reenergizing our faith through regular practices of prayer and reading scripture and study. Instead of pledging ourselves to old, worn out resolutions, why don’t we make a resolution that truly matters? Why don’t we promise to be more filled with God? Why don’t we promise to follow Jesus more closely? Why don’t we just make this the year of Jesus?

I wish for everyone a Happy New Year and may we all find those blessings that energize us and grow our faith.

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God’s Dream Seekers News

# Pastors Ponderings

By Pastor Kathleen Groff

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January 2015

Volume 2, Issue 1



**Sunday School**

For all ages every Sunday at 11am

Watch future newsletters and bulletins for more information on upcoming events for Sunday School.

*Christian Education Meeting*

*Tuesday, January 27 @ 6:30pm*

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

* Monday, January 5 @ 5pm- United Methodist Church **FREMONT**
* Thursday, January 8 @ 3pm-Amazing Grace Acres Church **ROHMAN/BITELY**
* Friday, January 9 @ 10am-St. Joseph Catholic Church **WHITE CLOUD,** Sponsored by Local Area Churches
* Saturday, January 10 @ 9:30am- First Christian Reformed Church **FREMONT**
* Saturday, Jan. 10 @ 10am-Pine Grove Community Church **CROTON/HOWARD CITY**
* Wednesday, Jan. 14 @ 5pm-Hesperia Community Education **HESPERIA,** Sponsored by Local Area Churches
* Tuesday, January 20 @ 4:30pm- Northland Church of Christ **GRANT/NEWAYGO**
* Wednesday, Jan. 21 @ 10am-First Baptist Church of **WOODLAND PARK**
* Wednesday, Jan. 21 @ 4:45pm-Second Christian Reformed Church **FREMONT**
* Tuesday, January 27 @ 5pm- River Valley Community Church **NEWAYGO**
* Wednesday, Jan. 28 @ 10am- TrueNorth Community Services **FREMONT**
* Wednesday, Jan. 28 @ 5pm- Hesperia Community Education **HESPERIA,** Sponsored by Lighthouse Community Church

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

**Just For Fun….**

**Q: Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?**

A: No, just an apple

**Q: Where was Solomon’s temple located?**

A: On the side of his head.

**Q: Why didn’t Noah go fishing?**

A: He only had two worms.

**Q: Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?**

A: When Joseph served in Pharaoh’s court.

**Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?**

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

**Tree’s of Hope and Caring**

Thank you to everyone who helped make this years display of Christmas Trees of Hope and Caring possible.

A special thanks to Miller and Shepherd LLC for their donation of $100.00 for a donation to the organization who won the decorating contest. There was a tie between Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Newaygo County and Kids Hope USA. Each of the winning organizations was given $50.

A big thank you goes out to the organizations and churches who took the time to display a tree. You are what make these types of events possible. Thank you.

We also had a winner in the Church category. For their beautiful Angle Tree, Grace Bible Church was also given a $50 donation.



Newaygo County Mobile Food Pantry

***Sunday, June 22, 2014***

***Following Sunday Worship***

***(approximately 11:30am)***

***At the Henning’s Home***

***(438 Emerald Lake Drive)***

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Enjoy some great food, good fellowship and soak up a little sun while you are at it. Bring your swim suit too!



**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!***

Knowing the history of the girls in Africa and the difficult road that lay ahead, Rachel O’Neill decided to take some dresses to the children in the villages.  A small group of ladies began to sew simple little dresses, made out of pillowcases, to be distributed to young girls through the orphanages in Africa.

**Why Pillowcases?**

(Pillow case pattern is great, but any simple pattern is also fine)

* Easy enough for a novice seamstress.
* Already has the hem and sides in it and easily available new and gently used.
* Brightly colored sundresses are perfectly suited for the African climate.



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

(next to McDonalds).

What a great month for men's group. We had our Pastor visit twice, once on her own, and once when spouses were invited.  What a great turn out for the Christmas breakfast.

Of course our Navy guy had to get his digs in for the Navy/San Diego State Poinsettia Bowl game. I guess if you had to go to a bowl game, poinsettias might be better than the potato bowl!

The men tried to be reserved with the wife's there, but it didn't take long before Ron came up with one of his stories. Carolyn now knows why Vern isn't hungry at lunch time on Wednesdays. In all, it was a great time of fun and fellowship.  Maybe we should do a quarterly breakfast or lunch or dinner with groups just to get together.  What do you think?

Anyway, the men meet every Wednesday at City Limits at 8:30.  Stop in, you may just get to learn something new!

Joe Groff

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Opportunities to Help!

Acolyte

Liturgist

Projectionist

Sound

Usher

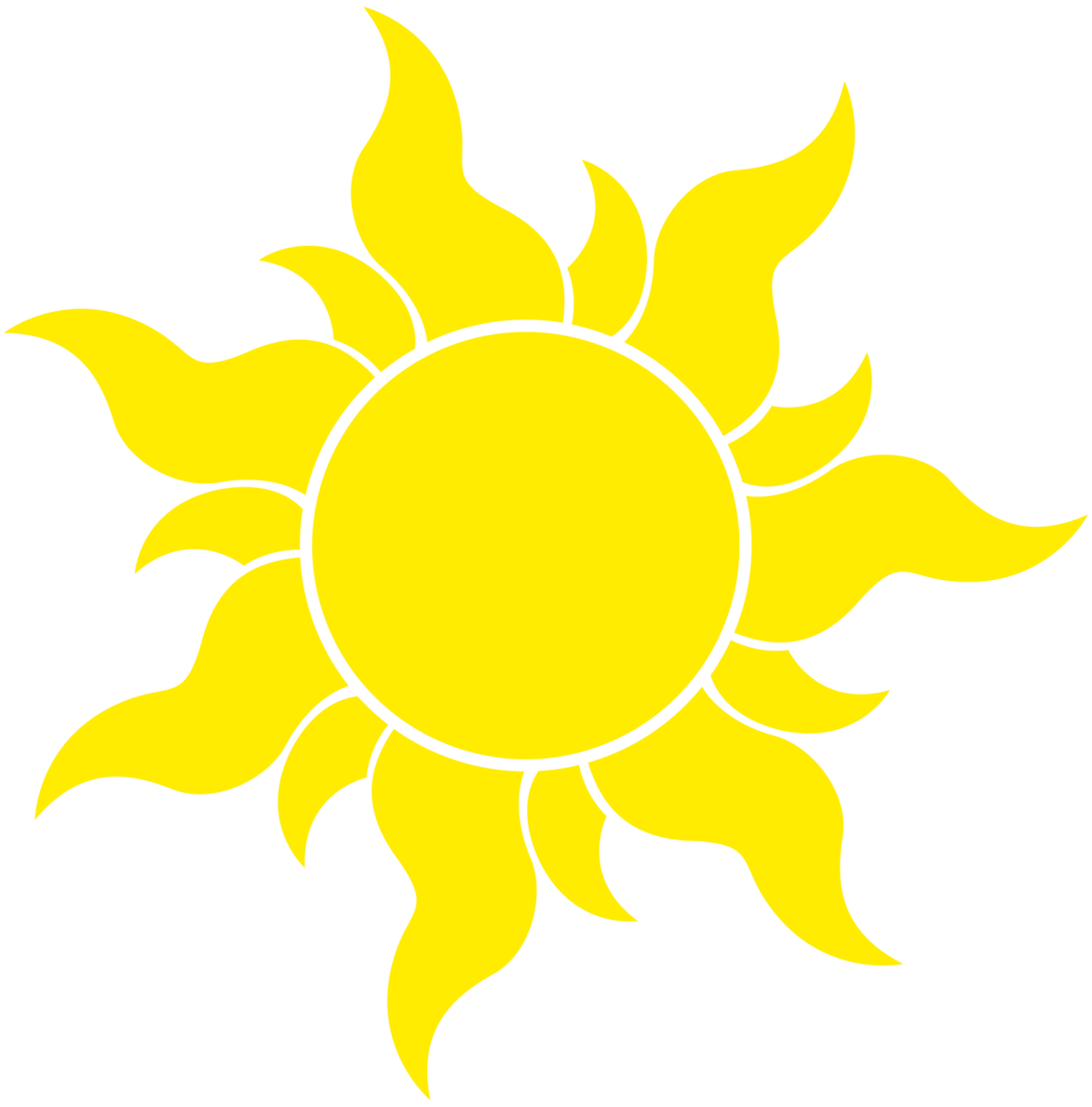
If you would like to be added to the list to help on Sunday mornings please contact the church office at 231-652-6581 or debprins@sbcglobal.net.

*THANK YOU!*

* **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, January 13 @ 6:30pm – We will have a business meeting to elect new officers for UMW for 2015 and plan what we would like to do for the coming year. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Your input is very important. All women are welcome.
* **Mary Martha Circle –** Tuesday, January 20 at 9:30am. All women are welcome.

# United Methodist Women

May You Shine the Light of Christ in the New Year!



Church Council – Special Meeting

Sunday, January 11, 2015

10:45am – following worship

We will be setting salaries for the church employees. If you are a part of church council, please mark your calendars and plan to attend today.

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 2nd 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!*



2015 Pancake Breakfast Returns

Saturday, January 24th

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!



A great thanks to Jan Fisher who has been Mission's Chair for the past several years.  She has done an excellent job and we will depend on her expertise to carry on.  She has stepped down as chair but remains on the committee.  Thank you Jan!

January is "Human Relations Day" and a noisy offering will take place on January 18.  This program supports programs for community development, voluntary services and youth offenders.

Why do we give?  Per the Methodist handbook:  "Together, United Methodist do remarkable ministry around the world.  We care for survivors recovering from earthquakes and storms, we invest, long term, in vulnerable communities; we implement the most effective solutions to diseases like malaria; we equip the next generation to lead the church and society.  In all of this, we share the good news of Jesus Christ!"

Thanks to all who support our missions!!!

Joe Groff

**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.**

# Mission Minutes



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.*

*Treasurer’s Report*

To date we have paid 100% if our ministry shares for 2014. Congratulations, you are a wonderful and committed congregation. Please prayerfully consider how you can help support the ministries of Newaygo United Methodist Church in 2015. 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.

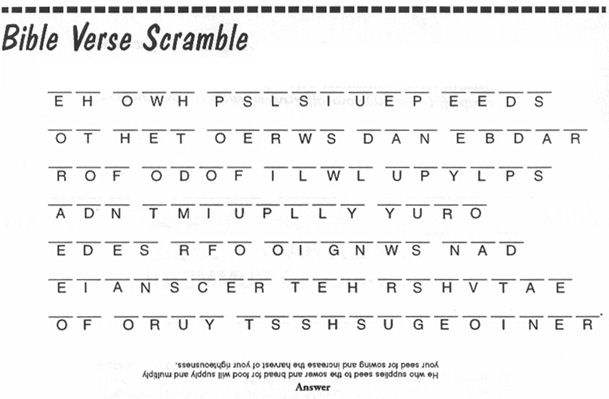
Contributions through

December 31, 2014 - *$ 11,954*

Expenses through

December 31, 2014 - $ 8,446

**Total $ 3,508**





**January 4**  
**Liturgist:**  Carline Knoll

**January 25**   
**Liturgist:**  Kay Pardonnet

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

**Projector:** Taylor Prins

**Sound:** Need Volunteer

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

**Projector:** Deb Prins

**Sound:**  Taylor Prins

**January 11**  
**Liturgist:**  Ron Pardonnet



**Acolyte:**  Saria Brooks  
**Inside Ushers:** Dolores Cook & Ruth Merritt  
**Outside Ushers:** Harriet Kiper & Carline Knoll

**Projector:** Deb Prins

**Sound:** Need Volunteer

**January 18**  
**Liturgist:**  Brenda Huckins Bonter

**Acolyte:**  Morgan Pope  
**Inside Ushers:** Ron & Kay Pardonnet

**January Birthday’s**

1/1 Norm Pedelty

1/2 Amelia Stine

1/7 Alicia Pedelty

1/8 John Dreyer

1/8 Terry Osborn

1/10 Jim Bode

1/10 Jane Bode Fowler

1/10 Steven Cain

1/11 Barbara Deitz

1/14 Elizabeth Brooks

1/14 Irene Payne

1/14 Connie VanderHyde

1/15 LeeAnn Hesse

1/20 Desiree Ryan

1/22 Kathryn Cain

1/22 Jeff Berwald

1/27 June Wade



**Outside Ushers:** Vern & Carolyn Boose

**Projector:** Jen Larsen

**Sound:** Need Volunteer



*1/2 Dan & Edna Schilling*

*1/18 Steven & Molly Cain*

*1/23 Chris & LeeAnn Hesse*

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  |  |  |  | 1  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 2 | 3 |
| **4**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for all ages | 5  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study  6:30pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study | 6 | 7  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  7pm – Choir Practice | 8  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 9 | 10 |
| **11**  9:30am – Worship  10:45 – Council Meeting  11am – Sunday School for all ages | 12  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study  6:30pm – Baby Boomer Bible Study | 13  6:30 – UMW Business Meeting – Ladies Night Out | 14  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  7pm – Choir Practice | 15  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 16 | 17 |
| **18 NOISY OFFERING**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for all ages | 19  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study | 20  9:30am – Mary Martha Circle  6:30pm – Finance Meeting  7:00pm – Church Council | 21  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  7pm – Choir Practice | 22  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 23 | 24  4th Saturday Pancake Breakfast |
| **25**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for all ages | 26  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study | 27  6:30pm – Christian Education Metting | 28  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  7pm – Choir Practice | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Newaygo United Methodist Church Activities –2014

*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

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##### Newaygo United Methodist Church

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