

GOD'S DREAM SEEKERS NEWS

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

Pastors Ponderings

By Pastor Kathleen Groff

What!? March is Here Already?

January and February, two of the harshest months of winter slid by somehow. It seems that in a blink they were gone. Now, before us comes one of the most intriguing months of the year, the month of change. Stuff starts to happen! Green and color start to happen, natures bird songs start to soar. The sun kisses our faces with a little bit of warmth. Some call this the dirty month as snow cover disappears and exposes the brown of winter. March may also be one of the cloudiest of months, but it is a month of transition. With this transition of spring comes new hope. Life will rise again and do its work of replenishing the ground around us.

Our faith is often held in a March-like state. We have tried to endure the hardships of winter experiences and find ourselves ready for new life, new hope. We go through experiences that drag us down, challenge our faith, and try to pull us away from the strength we have in believing. But God has the springtime experiences ready for us when we can begin to see new life and new hope. God provides us with fresh experiences that can raise us up and move us forward to live our faith in ways of hope and love. That's the wonder of this God of ours, always ready to show us a new way, a way beyond our suffering experiences, a way into new life. It doesn't always happen in sudden, miraculous ways, but often happens with a little sunshine here, a lot of clouds there, more sunshine, the emergence of small signs that spring is coming. Oh maybe there will be one more blast of snow, one more freezing day, but the signs are still there that new life is coming, new hope emerging from the ashes of our sorrow and sufferings.

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Faith is about living in both the winters and springs of our lives. We cannot always avoid the bad times, but we can always depend on God's strength to see us through. I used to hate the cloudy muddiness and mess of March until I realized it was a necessary month to transition us to the new life spring promises. Without the brown and mud of early spring the flowers would not begin to grow. Without the mix of cold and warm maybe new plants would wither and die in the heat of sudden summer. We can't just go from winter to summer, but a transition time is necessary. And so it goes with our lives filled with transition times, times of preparedness and for this March the great celebration of Easter. The problems of our lives don't just clear up, they transition to a new perspective on life. Transitions are a great time of reawakening to new possibilities that we hadn't seen before. So, welcome to the transition of spring and to all the transitions for our lives! Happy Easter!!!

Pastor Kathy

Building Use Guidelines

We would like to create guidelines for building use to help direct the church office when persons or groups ask to use our church space. If you are willing to join a short term committee to meet discuss and draw up guidelines, please contact the church office at 652-6581.

Thank you in advance for your help!





All our mentors have students! That was a real challenge. AJ is being mentored by Brenda and that is going well. The Kennys and the Cains have recovered from the Cain's vacation. Susanne is still sometimes concerned when Dawson does not eat much lunch. My Zoey loves bubbles and wonders if she will "see me when the snow time is over?" Alanah and JJ are becoming young adults before our eyes. I see growth and love in the reports of the mentors. We are encouraged by our experiences with our students.

When I took the director's job this past summer I knew I would mentor again. It's part of the job after all. I did not know who, what age, what grade or gender: I knew nothing. As a result, when school started I looked at every student in the age range as my potential mentee. The only ones I could rule out were the ones currently being mentored. An awesome prospect- not surfer dude awesome for sure.

I also remember when we started Kids Hope, we were discussing the benefits to children of being mentored. What a great idea one child, one hour, one church, one school. Too bad we weren't a bigger church to mentor more.

Someone- I do not remember who, one of our many Grandmothers past and present- said if Kids Hope was available when she was a child she would have benefited by the program. Her mother had passed away when she was young and her father was emotionally unavailable to her. Just knowing there was one person, only there for her would have been such a gift. She went on to say of course there may have been a child who had greater needs- there wouldn't have been enough mentors back then either.

That memory stays with me as I still consider the students I encounter. The need is great, our numbers small. What can one church do? Not all students will have mentors. We pray for them to find positive people. We mentor the ones we've been called to mentor.

Sherry



Men, come join us on **Wednesdays at 8:30am**
at the City Limits Restaurant
(next to McDonalds).

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down?
"It gets toad away."

What did the duck say when he bought lipstick?
"Put it on my bill."

What's the difference between a guitar and a fish?
" You can tune a guitar, but you can't tuna fish."

These might be things discussed at men's group! You never know what anybody will come up with. **KEN HAS SPOKEN!** In the past Ken just telephoned his order, but he changed his order a couple weeks ago and had to speak., almost knocked the waitress off her feet. Wonders will never cease. We have a good time at men's group on Wednesday mornings. We laugh, we get serious, we discuss, we plan and we accept each other. Wouldn't it be great if the rest of the world got along like the men's group? So men, join us. You might just learn something but you certainly will laugh!

Joe Groff

United Methodist Women's Meetings

Each meeting is open to all women. Please join us for which ever one you are able to attend. You are always welcome.

- **Longcore Circle** – We will meet on March 2nd at Dorothy Sibley's home.
- **Ladies Night Out** –Tuesday, March 8th at **6:30pm** at NUMC. Everyone is welcome including the men this time! We will have a speaker from The HOPE Project to help us learn more about Human Trafficking in our area and ways we can help.
- **Mary Martha Circle** – Tuesday, March 15th at 9:30am at the church. Please join us. All are welcome.

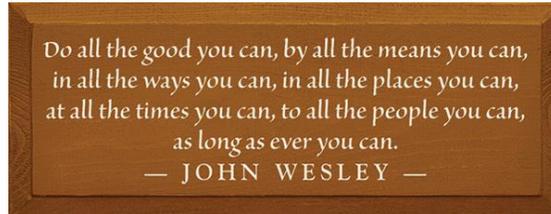


Pastor's Resource List

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.

There are many ways you can help. Please check the signup sheet in the coffee area at church or call the church office at 231-652-6581.

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 signup sheets at coffee hour on Sunday Mornings.



Mission Minutes

Our noisy offering on March 27 will be for our Native Americans.

From the UMC Special Giving:

One tribe in North America has told this story for centuries: when people "pale as birch" crossed the great water in large canoes, they brought with them "The Black Book." However, the bringers of the physical Book could not have known what it would mean and look like to be Native and a follower of Jesus. Today Native Americans—with many unique languages, many unique cultures—honor their heritage, and live as Jesus-followers, led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors.

Supporting the Ministry of Christ Among Native People

Most Americans today recognize that the history following the arrival of the large canoes bore little resemblance to the one all Christians identify as Creator. That's why the people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift, on this day, equips Native congregations—like New York's Onondaga Nation UMC and Nebraska's Native American Sacred Winds congregation—to worship and serve as only they can. This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give.

Our Giving Allows Native Americans to Encounter, Worship and Serve Jesus

When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ. Dr. Richard Twiss, a member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, asked:

"Will we be allowed to develop new ways of doing church that honor God's purposes for the creative expression of our cultures? Will new ministry partnerships and coalitions form? Will you help be a part of this wonderful process of reconciliation, restoration and release?"

Joe Groff - Missions Chair





Cal Deitz & Family
 Keith Johnson & Family
 Edna Schilling
 Fern Glasspoole
 Nancy Ferguson
 Jean Bumstead
 Wayne Bumstead
 Bill & Freda Corrigan
 June Wade
 Al Winchel
 Chuck Suess
 Ashley Friend
 Mike Richardson
 Unspoken prayers
 Military Service Persons
 Peace in the World

March Birthday's

3/3 Diane Boyd
 3/5 Elijah Brooks
 3/6 Olivia Jenerou
 3/7 Janet Fisher
 3/17 Jeanette Newfer
 3/18 Joyce Dryer
 3/21 Bri Brooks
 3/22 Madison Berwald
 3/24 Erik Larsen
 3/26 Mitch Ryan
 3/27 Joan Faulkner
 3/27 Autum Brooks



If your birthday or anniversary are not listed we apologize. Please send Deb Prins your updated information. You can call 231-652-9581 or send an email to debprins@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your help in updating our information.



Treasurer's Report

Please prayerfully consider how you can help support the ministries of Newaygo United Methodist Church in 2016. Please keep in mind when looking at the financial information that our expenses in January and February are traditionally higher because that is when property insurance and Newaygo City Special Assessment are due, we also paid for our yearly food license this month. Both January and February are traditionally lower giving months. There is also 1 more Sunday of donations.

Contributions through	
February 26, 2016 -	\$ 7,226.83
Expenses through	
February 26, 2016 -	<u>\$ 9,606.17</u>
Total	(2,379.34)

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



Sunday School for all ages
 at 11:00am
 (following Sunday Worship)

Saturday, March 12, 2016
3:15 – gymnastics
4:30 - swimming

The Wired Word Bible Study

Monday's at 1:00pm
 At Newaygo United Methodist Church

Join us for a discussion and biblical look at current events happening in our world. Each week is a different study so please come whenever you are able.



Lenten Soup's On Schedule

Wednesday's @ Noon

Cost is by donation. All monies collected will be donated to a local mission.

- Wednesday, March 2 @ Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ
- Wednesday, March 9 @ Newaygo United Methodist Church
- Wednesday, March 16 @ New Community Church



If you are able to provide a large pot of soup for Soup's On for March 9th or if you can help serve, please contact Carline Knoll. We will need 8-10 pots of soup. We appreciate your help.



Sunday, March 20th @ 9:30am – Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service

Thursday, March 24th @ 7:00pm – Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Friday, March 25th @ 7:00pm – Good Friday Worship Service

Sunday, March 27 @ 9:30am – Easter Worship Service

Please join us for the whole story...

Social Club

We met in February and made some plans. Below you will find a schedule of what we have planned. Notice some months are open for a host/hostess to sign up. We have a list of activity suggestions or you can come up with your own.

The idea is to do at least 1 fun gathering a month and try to stay within a 2 hour drive from Newaygo. Most activities are family friendly but may have some cost involved. If you have any questions please see Joe Groff. All are welcome to join the fun! Thank you Stan & Jan for the great food and movie also held in February.

- **March** – Friday, March 18th – Amish Fish Fry @ Lakeview – Deb & Tim Prins – Time TBD
- **April** – date/place TBD – Joe & Kathy Groff
- **May** –
- **June** –
- **July** — BBQ @ Jean Reynhout's home - Jean Reynhout, Joe & Kathy Groff possible tubing/canoeing before BBQ
- **August** – White Caps Baseball Game – Date/TBD – Paul & Melanie Grey
- **September** – Shrine of the Pines, Jones Ice Cream, possible jaz in the park behind Joans – Ken & Kathy Cain
- **October** -
- **November** -
- **December** -



Other suggestions for gatherings: beach party cookout, movies, canoeing, tubing, plays, fancy diner out, Grand River Boat ride, bowling, white elephant bingo, game night, progressive dinner, Griffons/Muskegon Lumberjacks, Grand Haven Boardwalk & musical fountain, line dancing, geo cashing, bicycle trip, scavenger hunt (town), Christmas caroling, make Christmas or Easter baskets for shut ins, live nativity, Marne train - mystery train ride. Tours within 2hrs of Newaygo; White Pine Village, Gerald Ford Presidential Museum, Meyer May House, Art/Science Museum, Nature Parks or any other fun activity you can come up with and plan for a group!



March 6

Liturgist: Carline Knoll
Acolyte: Gabriella Brooks
Inside Ushers: Dianna Weaver & Jen Larsen
Outside Ushers: Jane Fowler & Deb Prins
Projector: Taylor Prins
Sound: Deb Prins

March 13

Liturgist: Ron Pardonnet
Acolyte: Elizabeth Brooks
Inside Ushers: Ruth Merritt & Jean Reynhout
Outside Ushers: Millie Stine & Dolores Cook
Projector: Deb Prins
Sound: Taylor Prins

March 20

Liturgist: Tyler Friend
Acolyte: Blake Larsen
Inside Ushers: Vern & Carolyn Boose
Outside Ushers: Ron & Kay Pardonnet
Projector: Jen Larsen
Sound: Deb Prins

March 27

Liturgist: Brenda Huckins Bonter
Acolyte: Rachel Larsen
Inside Ushers: Ruth Merritt & Janet Fisher
Outside Ushers: Carline Knoll & Joan Faulkner
Projector: Jen Larsen
Sound: Need Volunteer

If you would like to be included in helping with; liturgist; ushering; acolyte; sound or computer on Sunday mornings, please let Deb Prins know and we will work you into the schedule.

Hope Project

Hope Project: Raising awareness of human trafficking and working to restore victims of sex trafficking.

Lynn Sweetland, a local survivor of human trafficking, will be here to speak to us about the realities human/sex trafficking in our area and ways that we can help with identifying, preventing and raising awareness.

Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30pm

Mission team and anyone interested please join the UMW-Ladies Night Out group on Tuesday, March 8th to gain more information on ways we may be able to help fight this growing problem. We will be looking at possibly participating in their Freedom Walk on Saturday, April 16th at 9:30am at the Fremont Middle School (rain or shine).



Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 26, 2016
Serving 8am-11am

If you are able to help or donate items needed please see Jean Reynhout as soon as possible. A list of needed items is on the table in the coffee area at church.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 8:30am – Men's Group @ City Limits 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy Office Hours Noon – Soups On @ NUCC 7pm – Choir Practice	3 Pastor Kathy's Day Off	4	5
6 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30am – Worship 11am – Sunday School For All Ages	7 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy Office Hours 1pm – Wired Word	8 6pm– Ladies Night Out – THE HOPE PROJECT – All persons are invited	9 8:30am – Men's Group @ City Limits 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy Office Hours Noon – Soup's on @ Newaygo UMC 7pm – Choir Practice	10 Pastor Kathy's Day Off	11	12
13 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30am – Worship 11am – Sunday School For All Ages 	14 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy Office Hours 1pm – Wired Word	15 9:30am – Mary Martha Circle 6:30pm – Finance 7:00pm – Church Council	16 8:30am – Men's Group @ City Limits 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy Office Hours 12pm-Soup's On @ New Community Church 7pm – Choir Practice	17 Pastor Kathy's Day Off	18 TBA – Sarah's Amish Fish Fry	19
20 Palm/Passion Sunday 9:30am – Worship 11am – Sunday School For All Ages	21 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy Office Hours 1pm – Wired Word	22	23 8:30am – Men's Group @ City Limits 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy Office Hours 7pm – Choir Practice	24 7:00pm – Maundy Thursday Worship Service	25 7:00pm – Good Friday Worship Service	26 8am-11am – Pancake Breakfast
27 Easter Sunday 9:30am – Worship NOISY OFFERING	28 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy Office Hours 1pm – Wired Word	29	30 8:30am – Men's Group @ City Limits 9am -12pm Pastor Kathy Office Hours 7pm – Choir Practice	31 Pastor Kathy's Day Off		

Newaygo United Methodist Church Activities –2016

There may be groups or individuals using the church space that are not included on this calendar of Church Events. Please check the large wall calendar in the office or the printed calendar on the desk in the office for a full list of building use. If you have any questions please call the church at 652-6581. Thank you.

Deb



**Newaygo United Methodist
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Mission

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.

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

Sunday School for all ages at 11am.

All are welcome.

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.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.newaygoumc.com

or check us out on

facebook: Newaygo
United Methodist Church

Newaygo United Methodist Church

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