

God’s Dream Seekers News

# Pastors Ponderings

It is 78 degrees, sun is shining, and green abounds around me. That was my dream the other night. The reality is there is at least 2 and ½ feet of snow on the ground, it is only 23 degrees, and the sun seldom shines. This winter has been long and hard. Our enthusiasm has dwindled, our activity has been limited, and our schedules have been rerouted to accommodate the latest snow storms. This winter especially has had an effect on our thinking and doing. Perhaps a sense of bleakness has settled in. It is easier to complain and grumble, not only about the weather, but about what we see going on around us. We are in a state of hold, of disruption from doing many things we like to do or want to do. It seems just too hard to get bundled up and venture forth into ice chunks forming on walkways, roofs and streets. So we stop and grumble about things not going the way we are used to. At least that seems to be the way I am operating these last couple of weeks. Half the battle has become to recognize what I am doing and try to turn things around to a more positive outlook. That seems to be working. I am hearing the birds (at least paying attention to the strong spring songs beginning to emerge). I am noticing that when the sun does shine it is brighter than before. And I am beginning to recapture some of the enthusiasm that has been buried under the snow.

So I am looking at the state of the church, where we stand and where we can go for future planning. We are in a good state of finance, although (partly due to lower attendance during these winter months) giving has been down a bit. We are still maintaining very well. Our activities in the church have been curtailed, but should be picking up as soon as the weather is more amenable. We are thinking ahead to soups on, potlucks, spring cleaning, doing repairs, organizing where we need to organize. But the most important thing we can do right now is ask God to help us recapture our flagging spirits and reenergize us with His Spirit so we can begin to look ahead to where we want to go this year and in the years to come. God has helped us create a wonderful environment in which to live and share faith. It is the right time to extend our hospitality into the community in new and exciting ways. I would like to hear from everyone about their ideas of what it means to share faith in our community.

Spring is just around the corner. Evidence of that is already here! As the warmer temps come and the snow melts and the sun shines let us also be aware that the spring of stronger faith is flowing as well, and we are about the business and pleasure of sharing Christ with the world. That is our task as church! May we all find renewal in the changing season and may our faith grow into that which can be shared with others who have not been introduced to Christ!

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By Pastor Kathleen Groff

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March 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1

Children during a distribution of ‘Little Dresses’



[www.littledressesforafrica.org](http://www.littledressesforafrica.org)

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

***Wednesday, March 5***—Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00pm

***Sunday, March 9***—First Sunday in Lent Worship Service @ 9:30am

***Wednesday, March 12***—Soup’s On at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church @ noon

***Sunday, March 16***—2nd Sunday in Lent Worship Service @ 9:30am

***Wednesday, March 19***—Soup’s On at River Valley Community Church @ noon

***Sunday, March 23***—3rd Sunday in Lent Worship Service @ 9:30am

***Wednesday, March 26***—Soup’s On at Newaygo Congregation United Church of Christ @ noon

***Sunday, March 30***—4th Sunday in Lent Worship Service @ 9:30am

***THINK SPRING POT LUCK***—following worship (No Sunday School)

***Wednesday, April 2***—Soup’s On at Family of God Community Church @ noon

***Sunday, April 6***—5th Sunday in Lent Worship Service @ 9:30am

***Wednesday, April 9***—Soup’s On at Newaygo United Methodist Church @ noon

**Sunday, April 13**—Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service @ 9:30am

***Friday, April 18***—Good Friday Worship Service @ 7:00pm

***Sunday, April 20***—Easter Morning Worship Service @ 9:30am

# Lent/Easter Worship & Fellowship Opportunities

# Little Dresses For Africa

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!**

For those who sew: complete kits for making Little Dresses for Haiti are available in the fellowship area. Please pick them up and sew, then return completed dresses to the church and we will be sure they are delivered so they can be shipped to Haiti.

“Changing lives one little dress at a time…**We’re not just sending dresses, we’re sending HOPE!”**

THINK SPRING POT LUCK

Sunday, March 30, 2014

Following worship

(No Sunday School)

Bring a dish to pass and your own table service and enjoy great food and fellowship while we celebrate (hopefully) the melting of all this snow.



Well it looks like we got another 4 inches of “Partly Cloudy”. Yes, we have had all the winter weather we need for a few years.

Joe has had hip replacement surgery and appears to have come through it with flying colors. He amazed everyone when he came home after surgery and walked from the car on M37 to the house with a great deal of fortitude conquering two sets of steps. He attended our breakfast meeting today and is doing well.

Is it not wonderful what learned people can do now? It used to be that the weather channel could provide us with a three day advance weather report. Now with the advent of such things as Doppler radar, computers, etc. they can now provide us with a 72 hour report.

***Men’s Group meets every Wednesday morning at City Limits Restaurant (right next to McDonalds). All men are welcome. We enjoy breakfast and fellowship with each other.***

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***fgfgf***

By Don Pederson

# Men’s Group

Deborah ranks among the most famous women of the Hebrew Bible. Not only known for her wisdom, Deborah was also known for her courage. She is the only woman of the Hebrew Bible who gained renown on her own merit, not because of her relationship to a man.

**Come to Mary Martha Tuesday, March 11th to learn more!**



# United Methodist Women

**United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.** The entire program and organization of United Methodist Women focuses on mission. Our mission initiatives include:

* Providing opportunities to grow spiritually
* Equipping women & girls to be leaders
* Providing transformative educational experiences
* Organizing for growth & flexibility
* Working for justice through service and advocacy

# Who Can Join?

We welcome all [women](http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/) who commit themselves to our Purpose, including you. You don't have to be a member of The United Methodist Church to join. There is no minimum age requirement.

* **Longcore Circle –** Tuesday, March 4 @ 1pm at Dorothy Sibley’s Home. All are welcome.
* **UMW-Ladies Night Out** – Tuesday, March 11th at 6:30pm. We will have a short business meeting, a short study on an influential women of the bible!
* **Mary Martha Circle –** Tuesday, March 18th at 9:30am. We will be meeting at Kay Pardonnet’s new home in Fremont. 625 Apache, Fremont, MI 49412. We have a business meeting then a time of devotion and bible study. We will be trying a new study, ‘Women of the Bible’ – Deborah (A faithful Judge)

**Habitat for Humanity –Newaygo County**

The noisy offering this month will go to support Habitat for Humanity of Newaygo County. The cash that is received will go to help restore a home for a needy family in our county. The family will be partnering with HFH to not only help with the work, but to make mortgage payments on the home until it is paid off. The great thing about this program is that the family pays no interest on this mortgage, just the principal.



**2014 Mission Giving**

**Accident Victims Fund $117.09**

**Human Relations 90.00**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**$ 207.09**

God Loves a Cheerful Giver Thank you!

**Upcoming Mission Concerns**

March 9- Love Food Pantry

March 23- Habitat for Humanity of Newaygo

County.

**LOVE FOOD Pantry**

On March 9, we will be collecting either money or goods for LOVE INC Food Pantry. Please bring items like toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. or give a cash donation so that these items can be purchased. A box will be available in the narthex for your donations.

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

**Lent Devotional booklets available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, March 2, 2014**

**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.**

**May God Bless you this Lenten & Easter Season.**

# Mission Minutes

Newaygo County Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled at the following locations to distribute free food to individuals and families in need. Most food distributions take approximately one hour. Please do not arrive more than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled delivery time. Bring your own container to hold 50 lbs of food. You will check in upon arrival unless otherwise stated.

Saturday, March 1, 10am, Pine Grove Comm. Church, CROTON/HOWARD CITY

Saturday, March 1, 1pm, Grant Wesleyan Church, GRANT

To Pre-Register call 231-834-7222

Monday, March 3, 5pm, Fremont United Methodist Church, FREMONT

Friday, March 7, 10am, St. Joseph Catholic Church, WHITE CLOUD

Sponsored by Local Area Churches and Great Lakes Energy Peoples Fund

Friday, March 8, 9:30am, First Christian Reformed Church, FREMONT

Wednesday, March 12, 5pm, Hesperia Community Ed., HESPERIA

Sponsored by Local Area Churches

**A complete list of food trucks is posted on the bulletin board at the church. Call the church office if you have any questions at 652-6581. You can also find a food list each week in the Hi-Lites Shoppers Guide**

Newaygo County Mobile Food Pantry





Treasurer’s Report

As you can see below, we were able to pay all the expenses in February and still end the month with a small savings. Thanks be to God! I would however like to draw your attention to the fact that even though we are meeting our expenses giving has been down the last few months. We understand the weather this winter may be playing a part in the attendance, but please when considering your giving, remember the lights and heat are still on even you are unable to make it.

Contributions through February 28, 2014 - *$ 7,600.00*

Expenses through February 28, 2014 - *$7,375.00*

Total Overage  *$ 225.00*

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.

**Worship Helpers for January**

**March 2**   
**Liturgist**:   Kay Pardonnet

**Acolyte:**   Blake Larsen  
**Inside Ushers:** Ruth Merritt & Jean Reynhout  
**Outside Ushers:** Ardie Tanis & Carline Knoll

**Projector:**  Jen Larsen

**Sound:** Mark VanDyke

**March 9**

**Liturgist:**   Nancy Clark

**Acolyte:** Morgan Pope  
**Inside Ushers:** Ruth Merritt & Carline Knoll

**Outside Ushers:** Millie Stine & Ardie Tanis

Projector: Taylor Prins

Sound: Deb Prins

**March 16**   
**Liturgist**: Ron Pardonnet

**Acolyte:**  Elizabeth Brooks  
**Inside Ushers:** Jan Fisher & Jane Bode Fowler  
**Outside Ushers:**  Ann Henning & Ardis Tanis

Projector:  Deb Prins

Sound: Mark VanDyke

**March 23**   
**Liturgist:**  Carline Knoll

4th Saturday Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 22, 2014

Serving 8am-11am

All you can eat pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, drink and fruit. Free will offering.

If you can help cook or serve, please see Jean Reynhout.

Invite your friends and neighbors!



**Acolyte:**  Gabriella Brooks  
**Inside Ushers:** Ron & Kay Pardonnet  
**Outside Ushers:** Dianna Weaver & Ardie Tanis

**Projector:** Taylor Prins

**Sound:** Deb Prins

**March 30**   
**Liturgist**: Nancy Clark

**Acolyte:**  Elizabeth Brooks  
**Inside Ushers:** Vern & Carolyn Boose  
**Outside Ushers:**  Ann Henning & Ardis Tanis

Projector:  Deb Prins

Sound: Mark VanDyke



Newaygo United Methodist Church Activities

Mary Martha Circle Rummage & Plant Sale

May 23rd & 24th

9am-4pm

***Mark your calendars today!!!!***

Start cleaning out your closets and bring your donations for the rummage sale in by Wednesday, May 22nd. Please bring your plants and garden items in by Thursday, May 23. You may leave your donations on the table in the basement marked “Rummage Sale Donations”. Thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Carline Knoll at 231-652-1147

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| **2**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for All Ages | 3  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study | 4  1:00pm – Longcore Circle @ Dorothy Sibley’s  6:30pm – Christian Education | 5  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  7pm – Ash Wednesday Service  8pm - Choir | 6  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 7 | 8 |
| **9**  **1st Sunday in Lent**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for All Ages | 10  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study | 11  6:30pm – Ladies Night Out, UMW Meeting | 12  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  12pm – Soup’s On @ St. Barts  7pm - Choir | 13  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 14 | 15 |
| **16**  **2nd Sunday in Lent**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for All Ages | 17  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study | 18  9:30am – Mary Martha Circle  6:30pm - SPR Meeting | 19  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  12pm – Soup’s On @ River Valley  7pm - Choir | 20  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 21 | 22  8am-11am – 4th Saturday Pancake Breakfast Returns |
| **23**  **3rd Sunday in Lent**  9:30am – Worship  11am – Sunday School for All Ages | 24  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study | 25 | 26  8:30am – Men’s Group @ City Limits  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  12pm – Soup’s On @ NCUCC  7pm - Choir | 27  Pastor Kathy’s Day Off | 28 | 29 |
| **30**  **4th Sunday in Lent**  9:30am – Worship  11am – No Sunday School for All Ages  **THINK SPRING POTLUCK – following worship** | 31  9am -12pm Pastor Kathy’s Office Hours  1:00pm – Wired Word Bible Study |  |  |  |  |  |

March 2014

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: [kthlngrff@gmail.com](mailto:kthlngrff@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](mailto:debprins@sbcglobal.net)

**Kids Hope Co-Directors:** LeeAnn Hesse

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Shelbi Hesse

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**Organist:** Lois VanDyke

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**Choir Director:** Cathy Badge

Phone: 231-652-1478

Email: [bbadge@riverview.net](mailto:bbadge@riverview.net)

**Custodian:** Karen Winchel

Phone: 231-689-0677

Email: [sahoka\_farms@yahoo.com](mailto:sahoka_farms@yahoo.com)

Please feel free to contact any of the church staff if you have any questions or concerns.

**March Birthday’s**

3/3 Diane Boyd

3/5 Elijah Brooks

3/6 Olivia Jenerou

3/7 Janet Fisher

3/13 Forest Parker

3/17 Jeanette Newfer

3/18 Joyce Dreyer

3/21 Bri Brooks

3/22 Madison Berwald

3/24 Erik Larsen

3/24 Kennedy Stray

3/26 Mitch Ryan

3/27 Joan Faulkner

3/27 Autumn Brooks



March Anniversaries

3/2 Don & Jackie Pederson



“Son of God” Movie

We have purchased tickets to see the “Son of God” movie. There are 25 tickets available at a cost of $9.00 per ticket. We are not sure what date the group will be going. We will send out more information via email and church bulletin hopefully next week regarding a date. If you are interested in going, please call the church office at 231-652-6581 to reserve your tickets.

If you want more information or would like to watch the trailer for the movie go to [www.sonofgodmovie.com](http://www.sonofgodmovie.com)



Newaygo United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 366

Newaygo, MI 49337

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.

*We’re on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

www.newaygoumc.com

Mission

##### Newaygo United Methodist Church

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