

# GOD'S DREAM SEEKERS NEWS

January 2018  
Volume 5 Issue 1



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We've all been handed something very special a "brand New Year."

It was within the last minutes possibly seconds of 2017, so many of us had a feeling of great anticipation involving the opportunities 2018 would bring. We reflected on the last 365 "yesterdays", we made promises to ourselves that we may do better and be better by creating our New Year's resolutions, you know the least reliable promises. The promises that we make with self-reassurance 2018 will be the year we keep those promises, only to fast-forward 365 days and find we are making those same self-made promises once again. Our intentions are high to make this year different than the other years. But if the truth be told, the average time between the moment we make our resolutions and their demise is a sad three weeks. I am just as guilty, I make many of those same promises to myself: I promise to eat less, exercise more, and I am determined this is the year I am going to become healthy; however, what I once defined as my motivation quickly becomes a mere chore. Although every year I find myself furiously failing I do know there is one promise that will never fail, and that's God's love for you and for me.

As the fresh fallen snow blankets the ground this time of year, I am reminded with each step I take outside I am creating a new path, a path where no one has gone before, or so it seems. The New Year presents similar opportunities that God's love gives to us, to begin again and start over. The last five months have been a true testimony when starting new, beginning new, and while creating new paths God will find you, support you, and love you. Amy, Grayson, Samuel, and I love you all very much. Your kindness, generosity, hospitality, encouragement, and the love each of you have for our family is the same reliable declaration God has promised each and every one of us; there is no demise of God's love after three weeks, and with God's love there are no broken promises.

So for 2018 I'd like to offer a different focus for our New Year's enthusiasm. Let's focus on the promise Jesus Christ brings peace and pardon to our lives. Resolve to be thankful, anticipate eternity, aim for the glory of Christ, and live your life by the faith in His finished work.

Happy New Year!!  
Pastor Eric

## New year blessings to you and yours!





## Winter Weather Closings

**Remember that during the week when Newaygo Public Schools are closed all Newaygo United Methodist Church Activities will be cancelled.**

**On Sunday Mornings in the case of bad winter weather there will be worship for those that are able to make it to the church.**

**Please use your own judgement and if the roads are bad please stay home and stay safe.**

**Remember in these very cold temperatures to check on your friends and neighbors.**



*“Join us for fellowship, food and solving the world’s problems as we see them... We meet every Wednesday at 8:30am at City Limits Restaurant – (next to McDonalds)*

## UMW-LADIES NIGHT

**Meets the second Tuesday of the month. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 @ 6:00pm**—We will be planning for 2018. Your input is important to us and we would like to know what kind of fun activities you would like us to plan for fellowship and learning to be better women of God.



**This is also the United Methodist Women’s meeting where we make decisions that affect the UMW as a whole. Please try to attend as often as you are able. Your input is important to us.**

## MARY MARTHA CIRCLE



**Meets the Third Tuesday of the Month. Next meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 @ 9:30am**—at Newaygo United Methodist Church.

Women gather together monthly to support each other, pray study the bible, have devotional time and discuss ways we can help with missions in the

surrounding community and beyond.

We are currently studying the book “Living the Beatitudes” by John W. Fogal, Sr.



## MILITARY PRAYER CHAIN

Please keep all persons serving in the US military branches in your prayers every day. Below are persons currently serving in the military who are loved ones of your church members.

- Staff Sargent Mandy Hagan
- Sargent First Class Frank Arnold
- Spec. Kathleen Arnold
- Ashley Friend
- Clint Walls
- Elliott McBride
- Christopher Peterman
- Jacob Shain
- Jeremy Cook
- Tyler Friend



God of compassion, we pray for military personnel, offered for the sake of others, and separated from family and loved ones. Care for them; meet their needs. Grant them courage, compassion, strength, and all they need for the living of these days. Sustain them through their every trial. Remind them of the humanity they share even with those who are called "the enemy;" through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

## PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



Frank Hesse—Allen Cook—Vern Boose—Amelia Stine—Doris Jacques—Edna Schilling—Jean Bumstead—June Wade—Susanne Geerdink—Barb Westbrook—Peggy Hill Zoodsma (Jen Larsens Mother—Unspoken Prayers—Military Service Persons—Peace in the World

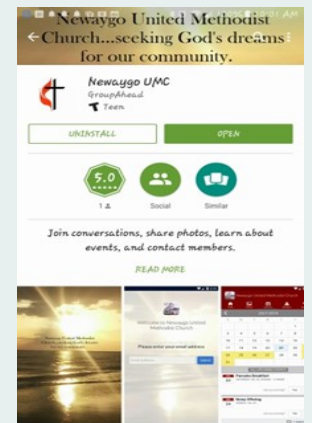
If you have a loved one or a concern you would like added to the prayer list, please contact Deb

Prins in the church office at 231-652-6581 or by email; debprins@sbcglobal.net.

***When you have an immediate prayer chain request please call Carline Knoll at 231-652-1147. If she is not available call Deb Prins at the church office at 231-652-6581 or cell 231-335-8737.***

## NEWAYGO UMC APP

(android or apple):  
SMART PHONE USERS – Go to your app store on your phone and search for “newaygo umc” and download our app. This is a great way to get connected and get updates and reminders. There is a current calendar that updates daily. If you need help please see Deb Prins.



## Taking Down of Christmas Decorations

Wednesday, January 10  
7:00pm

We will be taking down the Church's Christmas decorations at 7:00pm if you are available to help. Many hands make light work.

Choir practice will be held following the undecorating of the church.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Ways You Can Help

- **Children's Worship**—We will not be having Children's Worship on the first Sunday of each month as we would like the children to have this opportunity to worship with the congregation and be a part of communion if they wish. **HOWEVER**—We still need volunteers to provide Children's Worship downstairs after children's time in regular worship once a month or so. Has God been nudging you to move out of your comfort zone and do something different? Please consider Children's Worship. There are videos and curriculum available for your use.
- **Nursery**—We are looking for a couple more nursery volunteers for during worship on Sunday Mornings. If you would like to provide nursery care for children through 5yrs old please let Anne Henning or Deb Prins know so we can add you to the schedule.

**Please contact Anne Henning (Christian Education Director) at 652-6191 or [annehenning1@comcast.net](mailto:annehenning1@comcast.net) if you have any questions or would like to help.**



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**10:45am to 11:30am**—  
Children's Sunday School  
**11:00am to 12pm**—Adult  
Sunday School—Current  
Study is "Redemptive  
Compassion" by Lois M.  
Tupy  
All are welcome!

## Next Christian Ed Meeting

Monday, January  
22nd @ 6pm.  
Please mark your  
calendars!



## WORSHIP HELPERS JANUARY 2018

### January 7

Liturgist: Carline Knoll  
Inside Usher: Jane Bode Fowler & Harriet  
Kiper  
Outside Usher: Jen Larsen & Dianna  
Weaver  
Acolyte: Saria Brooks  
Projector: Deb Prins  
Sound: Need Volunteer  
Nursery: Anne Henning  
Children's Worship: No Children's  
Worship  
Safety Team: Jane Bode Fowler

### January 14

Liturgist: Anne Henning  
Inside Usher: Ruth Merritt & Janet Fisher  
Outside Usher: Karen Winchel & Dorothy  
Besemer  
Acolyte: Rachel Larsen  
Projector: Taylor Prins  
Sound: Deb Prins  
Nursery: Jane Bode Fowler  
Children's Worship: Amy Keiser-Magner  
Safety Team: Patti Venneman

### January 21

Liturgist: Ron Pardonnet  
Inside Usher: Vern & Carolyn Boose  
Outside Usher: Dolores Cook & Joan  
Faulkner  
Acolyte: Blake Larsen  
Projector: Elizabeth Brooks  
Sound: Deb Prins  
Nursery: Taylor Prins  
Children's Worship: Anne Henning  
Safety Team: Dorothy Besemer

### January 28

Liturgist: Brenda Huckins Bonter  
Inside Usher: Ron & Kay Pardonnet  
Outside Usher: Arlene Salacina & Taylor  
Prins  
Acolyte: Morgan Pope  
Projector: Deb Prins  
Sound: Taylor Prins  
Nursery: Harriet Kiper  
Children's Worship: Chris & Danielle  
Gleason  
Safety Team: Rob & Morgan Pope

## Mission Minutes

This past month was a really busy time for the mission team. Along with all the Christmas activities at the church, we collected, packed and either mailed or hand delivered Christmas presents to 17 children on behalf of their incarcerated parent. I'm sure that all of the children were delighted to receive a message and gift from their parent. **You** made that possible with your generous gifts. **Thank you!**

Our noisy offering in January will go to Human Relations at the Conference level.



When you give on Human Relations Day, you are supporting community outreach, social justice and work with at-risk youth. **And it's not just our congregation!** Our congregation joins thousands of other United Methodist Churches to love and care for the children of God.

I hope you'll consider giving on this Special Sunday (the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month).

*Janet Fisher—Missions Chair*

## January 2018—Kids Hope USA

Good bye 2017. It went by quickly didn't it? Our year started in September and a minute later it was Christmas. I have seen huge growth over the year. Our kids look forward to seeing their mentors (I think that means the prayer partners are doing their part. It really couldn't happen without your prayers). There is a lot of love for children in our school and community. Thanks to all who helped make our Christmas play so wonderful. As an audience member I enjoyed my part. They did a wonderful job. The music was great and I loved the humor. "The angel said "Get out of here!" Then enters the angel with her step: "Get out of here!" And they did. Herod had a great swan dive so the holy family could return to Nazareth. The sheep wandering around Bethlehem was a perfect touch. Fantastic job everyone!

Hello 2018! I love a fresh start. This is the official holiday of do overs. Goals seem more attainable when I can start over. I even love resolutions; not that I am any better at following through than the rest, but I love the idea. It's all about looking ahead to what will be better and what can I do to make that happen. We've survived the birth of the baby and now we look ahead. We wait for the promise. The dark days are behind us, spring is closer with every lengthening day. It's all about hope. It's easy to believe all things are possible this time of year.

Happy New Year

Sherry Graham—Kids Hope USA Director



snacks & fellowship

## Sunday Fellowship SNACKS

We are looking for persons to sign up to bring refreshments for after church on Sunday mornings. There is a sign up sheet in the coffee area and there are many spots not filled.

If you can provide a snack of your choice to enjoy after worship **please sign up for one of the Sunday's that are not spoken for.**

Thank you in advance for your help.



# Newaygo United Methodist Church Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>7</b> 9:30am – Worship 10:45am— Children’s Sunday School 11:00am—Adult Sunday School	<b>8</b> 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours 1:00pm—Wired Word Bible Study	<b>9</b> 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours 6pm—UMW Ladies Night Out	<b>10</b> 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours 7pm—Take Christmas Decorations down - Choir Practice following	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30am – Worship 10:45am— Children’s Sunday School 11:00am—Adult Sunday School	<b>15</b> 10am—Safety Team Meeting 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours 1:00pm—Wired Word Bible Study	<b>16</b> 9:30am—Mary Martha Circle Meeting 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours	<b>17</b> 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours 12:30pm—Choir Practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30am – Worship 10:45am— Children’s Sunday School 11:00am—Adult Sunday School	<b>22</b> 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours 1:00pm—Wired Word Bible Study 6pm—Christian Education Meeting	<b>23</b> 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours 6:30pm—Finance Meeting 7pm—Church Council	<b>24</b> 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours 12:30pm—Choir Practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8am-11am—4th Saturday Pancake Breakfast
<b>28 Noisy Offering</b> 9:30am – Worship 10:45am— Children’s Sunday School 11:00am—Adult Sunday School	<b>29</b> 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours 1:00pm—Wired Word Bible Study	<b>30</b> 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours	<b>31</b> 11am-3pm—Pastor Eric Magner Office Hours 12:30pm—Choir Practice			

If you have something you would like added to the church calendar, please let the church office know as soon as possible. If you are planning an activity please check the large wall calendar in the church office or call the church office at 231-652-6581 to be sure the date is available for church use. Dates and times are subject to change so check the calendar often.



# Treasurer's Report

Prayerfully consider how you can help support the ministries of Newaygo United Methodist Church in 2018. Please remember when looking at the below figures that several year end contributions were

received a few of them are a pre-pay of pledge for 2018. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Deb Prins for a more detailed report. You can call the church office 231-652-6581 or by email at debprins@sbcglobal.net.

Contributions through December 31, 2017 -	\$ 16,209.95
Expenses through December 31, 2017 -	\$ 8,056.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,153.51</b>



## December Birthdays

- 1/1 Norm Pedelty
- 1/2 Amelia Stine
- 1/7 Alica Pedelty
- 1/8 John Dreyer
- 1/10 Jane Bode Fowler
- 1/10 Jim Bode
- 1/14 Elizabeth Brooks
- 1/14 Connie VanderHyde
- 1/15 LeeAnne Hesse
- 1/22 Jeff Berwald
- 1/22 Kathryn Cain
- 1/27 June Wade



## Safety Team Update

Next Meeting is Monday, January 15, 2018 @ 10am  
Safety Teams in place for Sunday mornings during worship service.

**Current Safety Team Members are:** Rob Pope, Morgan Pope, Jane Bode Fowler, Dorothy Besemer, Jean Reynhout, Jim Bode, Jo Bode, Deb Prins, Dudley Irwin, Patti Venneman. We need more people to do safety checks on Sunday mornings so if you would like to help please let the church office know.

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to have considered please contact a Safety Team Member or contact the church office at 231-652-6581.



## 4th Saturday Pancake Breakfast

Pancakes return!

**Saturday, January 27, 2018**  
**Serving 8am-11am**



All you can eat pancakes, sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, American fries, fruit & drink. Invite your friends and neighbors for breakfast. Cost is by donation.

We need help to prepare and serve the breakfast. If you are willing to help with the pancake breakfast in any way or if you have questions, please contact Stan Fisher at 231-652-7447.

## January

### Anniversaries

- 1/23 Chris & LeeAnne Hesse

*If your birthday or anniversary date is missing, please contact Deb Prins at 231-652-6581 and update your information.*



**Newaygo United Methodist  
Church**

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umcnew@newaygoumc.com

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 children & youth @  
10:45am. Adult Sunday School @ 11:00am

*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.



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

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE