

Worship Helpers for October

USHERS:

2: Gloria Winters & Rosemary Strohpaul
 9 :
 16:
 23:
 30:

GREETERS:

2:
 9 :
 16: Dick & Gloria Winters
 23:
 30:



SOUND SYSTEM

Ken Bell
 Austyn Page

FELLOWSHIP TIME:

2:
 9 :
 16: *Snack Time Fellowship Hour*
 23: Dick & Gloria Winters
 30: Potluck



Birthdays in October

4 Milan Papes
 5 Nancy Hauser
 8 Dick Winters
 9 Al Corey
 9 Rosemary Strohpaul
 18 Marcia Smalligan
 19 Mark Petz
 20 Shirley Barends
 22 Austin Thomas
 23 Jonathan Riedel
 25 Sue Cornell
 29 Ed Ranger



Anniversaries in October

9 Max & Doris Purcell
 26 David & Joyce Twining

HELP!!

Please take a moment and check out the sign-up sheets on the table in the Fellowship Hall and sign up when and where you are willing to help. We need help with Ushers, Greeters and Fellowship Time.

Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ

432 Quarterline • Newaygo, MI 49337 • (231) 652-6624

Jonathan Riedel, Pastor



The Churchmouse

October, 2016



All Hallows' Eve

"But Jesus replied, 'Don't stop the healer because whoever isn't against you is for you.'" Luke 9:50 CEB



I really do not completely understand why many of my fellow Christians have such a problem with All Hallows' Eve or, as it more colloquially known, Halloween. Now I am not a naïve observer of theological phenomenon and I am familiar with the psychological realities of how we become the things that fascinate us the most.

If I follow those concerns to their logical conclusions I understand that many Christians oppose the holiday because it promotes an honoring of the personification of evil and allows us to open our minds and hearts to the seductions of vampires, serial killers, werewolves, ghosts, witches, and assorted plastic cut-outs of whatever latest Marvel superhero is showing at the multiplex. It distracts us from the primary focus of our lives, which should be on the honorable and pure things of creations and somehow gives permission to exult evil actions such as killing, kidnapping, poisoning, and stealing your siblings' candy. Many churches strictly forbid their younger attendees from going trick or treating, probably with varying degrees of success. Others substitute alternative celebrations such as harvest festivals where people can come dressed as their favorite occupation or their favorite saint or Biblical heroes. I have attended a number of these events and I have noted the number of miniature Davids armed with slingshots and poised to slice off Goliath's head or dressed as a martyr heading for whatever method caused their end. Saint Sebastian-anyone? So much for lowering the level of glorified violence.

I will also admit they are well within their rights to object to the morality of the holiday and I do commend their desire to find a way to let children have their fun without the contamination of what they see as secular evil. Miniature Peters and Paul are preferable to mini-hooded deaths with scythes on most evenings, particularly when mini-Grim Reaper can't see out of his hood well enough to avoid walking into large bushes. What becomes problematic, however, is the suggestion that their harvest festivals are superior. Why are saints and biblical heroes preferable to super-heroes, particularly after we strip their complex stories to their bare minimums and often focus on the violent aspects of their characters? Morality may have less to do with the holiday than we adults often assume. After all, most people who dress up as ninja assassins as children do not become such when they become adults. Nor does every child who wears hand grenades and paints his face in camouflage may never enter the military. Halloween is about the pretend, the letting off negative impulses in a safe and healthy way. To do so may require them to be more colorful and larger than life, even suggesting violence, than the child would normally get away with. Mummies are not as mobile or as compelling as, say, vampires and werewolves. Ghosts are more exciting than, say,

continued on page 2



Worship Schedule

October 2

World Communion Sunday
 Luke 17:5-10
In This Together



October 9

Ask a Question Sunday
 Luke 17:11-19

October 16

Children's Sabbath
Keep At It
 Luke 18:1-8

October 23

Pick a Topic Sunday
 Hymn Sing

October 30

Reformation Sunday/
 Canned Good Sunday
Transforming Love
 Luke 19:1-10
 Hymn Sing

(continued from page 1)

doctors and social workers. The point of Halloween costumes is to become something compelling, something vivid, not to dress as something you might become. Most children know this is a game of imagination, a game that can be safely put aside childish things.

Furthermore, there might be a better way to connect spiritually with Halloween celebrators than by offering alternative, supposedly superior parties. Halloween customs pre-existed Christianity's arrival in Europe and emerged from a deeply faithful and deeply storied culture, capable of much right and much wrong-just as Christians are. The early Christian missionaries recognized this and they knew that they had to tap into this spiritual sensitivity to get them to listen to their message. They also knew that using only military might would make only sullen, rebellious converts. While some may call their methods cultural subjugation and deliberate attempt to destroy a decent culture, these early Catholic workers were rather clever. They knew Halloween was a sacred harvest celebration for the Druids and Celts. It was an open, spiritual day full of something possibly holy at work. So the missionaries baptized it, if you will, and gave it a Christian name. They made it a celebration of all of the souls God created, a fitting holiday before All Saints' Day-a day on which many churches celebrate those who have died since the last harvest. The bonfires, the dressing up, the sharing of food, the flaming pumpkins could also be easily assimilated into this newly Christianized holiday. And so they have. And so have many other Christian holidays-such as Christmas (borrowed from the Celts), Pentecost (borrowed from Judaism), and many saints' days (borrowed from the Greeks and Romans). Their spiritual energy has been, if you will, been repurposed and allowed to continue what good it will, even if it might not be quite what its original celebrators ever imagined.

My church believes that all people, are by nature, searching for some sense of spirit, some sense of God. Many need someone to talk about their journeys with, need someone willing to walk some part of their way with, need someone they can share wisdom with, and need someone they can learn from to make their lives better and easier to work through. So we try to meet people where they are, not where our expectations might force them to be. On Halloween, you will find us handing out candy and admiring weird costumes. You will find us taking pictures and talking to the people who come to our trunk or treat. You will find us inviting them to use the bathroom if they need to. You will not be witnessed to and be surrounded by a 'morally superior' party. We will, however, be happy to answer your questions and will bend over backwards to make you feel welcome. You will see us as we are from 6 to 8 p.m. on Halloween. It is much the same way we are on other days. We are human beings loved by God sharing what love we can with others-no strings attached. In costume even-suprheroes included. That's what God's love makes us feel sometimes. Particularly on Halloween.

Peace,

Pastor Jon



Trunk or Treat at the church from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Halloween. We will be passing out candy to the children of Newaygo. Costumes and candy welcome. Come and join the fun!



Did you know that the Newaygo County Commission on Aging offers the following services?

- **Home Repair Services.** The suggested donation is \$10 per task. The homeowner needs to provide the materials.
- **Homemaker Program:** Homemaker aides are available for basic laundry, and other limited non-nursing chores.
- **Bus Transportation:** The COA has four regular bus route areas that run on Mondays through Thursdays. Route areas are Newaygo/Grant, Fremont, Southwest portion of the County beginning and ending in White Cloud.
- **Hot Meals:** Available in Newaygo at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, Monday - Thursday at 11:30 am.

If you have questions or need more information, call them at (231) 689-2100. Information is also posted on the bulletin board in the hall.

Food for Body and Soul

The following is an excerpt from the booklet *Food for Body and Soul*, printed in celebration of the First 125 Years of the Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ..

Little things change many lives. A short prayer that Walter Scott always repeated each Sunday after offerings were taken, has always stuck in my mind.

*We give Thee but Thine own
What'er our gifts may be,
For all that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, oh Lord, from Thee.*

Each time I heard it a special meaning came to me.

For me, the key word was ALL. "Think of it, Joe," my mind would say. "Everything you have -- home, family, health, love, problems, music, job, trees, church, children -- everything is a trust from God."

What a great responsibility that is. God not only gave us Jesus, but everything we see, touch, smell or feel. It's all so simple and so beautiful.

The problem for me was -- How can a human ever show enough gratitude to God -- especially when *we* are *not* perfect?

the answer always came back the same -- Just keep trying.

--Joe Petz

Treasurer's Report

August 16 - September 15, 2016



Income	
August 21	\$ 877.00
August 28	\$873.00
September 4	\$2,226.00
September 11	\$3,177.00
Total	\$7,153.00
Expenses	\$9,953.76

Difference(\$2,800.76)

Phillips Fund \$148,023.04

Thanks to everyone for their generous giving and the steady income each and every month.

Dawn Anderson, Treasurer

Adult Bible Study Forum

Noon & 7 pm

How to Act Like a Christian -- An Introduction to Christian Ethics

Using Brian Stiltner's book *Toward Thriving Communities*, Pastor Jon will explore how we can behave our best as we try to follow Jesus' way. He will also explore what a good community looks like and how we can contribute to making a better community possible. We will learn how to think carefully and thoroughly about the choices we make. Much discussion will be encouraged and questions will be most welcome.

Here is a schedule of topics:

October 4 -- *How to Behave in Public -- A Introduction to Ethics*

October 11 -- *What are the Best Ways to Live?*

October 18 -- *How can we help humanity flourish?*

October 25 -- *What is a Good Community?*

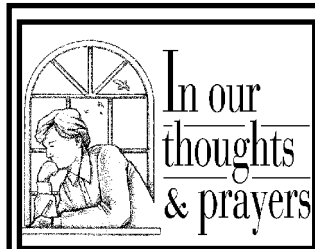
November 1 -- *Why are Families Important?*

November 8 -- *How do Schools contribute to a good society?*

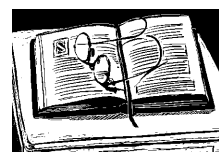
November 15 -- *What does work mean?*

November 22 -- *Thanksgiving Worship Service -- A time of Bible Readings and Songs*

November 29 -- *What does service do?*



Rich, Linda, Al,
Genny, Carolyn L.,
Conrad Jr., Fred,
Lucas, John, Hope,
Maxine and Carolyn S.



Sunday Morning Bible
Study
9 am

Continues its slow walk through the Acts of the Apostles, Bring your questions.

All are Welcome Come Join Us • Bibles Provided

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will be meeting on Tuesdays at 10:00 am. throughout October.

All are welcome!

Deadline for the November Churchmouse

Please send any information or articles you would like included in the **November Churchmouse** to the office by **Sunday, October 30.**

You may e-mail information to:
churchmouse@newaygoucc.org
or leave a hard copy in the office.

October 2016

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bible Study 9:00 am		10 am Women's Bible Study Noon & 7 pm Adult Study Forum	10 am Women's Bible Study Noon & 7 pm Adult Study Forum	5:30 - 7:00 NCUCC	Worship & Pastoral Care 9:00 am 5:30 pm Choir		Multi Ethnic Festival 5:00 pm
9	10	11	18	12	13	14	15
Bible Study 9:00 am Buddhism Talk 4:00 pm		10 am Women's Bible Study Noon & 7 pm Adult Study Forum	10 am Women's Bible Study Noon & 7 pm Adult Study Forum	LAST Skateboard Bible Study 5:30 - 7:00 NCUCC	5:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Bell Choir		
16	17	24	25	19	20	21	22
Bible Study 9:00 am Snack Time Fellowship Hour		Halloween Trunk or Treat 6-7 pm	10 am Women's Bible Study Noon & 7 pm Adult Study Forum		5:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Bell Choir		Breakfast @ UMC
23	30	31		28	29	30	29
Bible Study 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am			10 am Women's Bible Study Noon & 7 pm Adult Study Forum		5:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Bell Choir		

Many Facets of Buddhism

On Sunday, October 09 at 4 p.m., as part of our continuing series on the Worlds Religion, we will have a time of coffee, cookies, and questions with Shuji Valdene Mintzmyer.

She will provide an hour-long introduction to the many facets of Buddhism. She is part of the Clergy Team of the Grand Rapids Buddhist Temple and Zen Center. She is an ordained Solo Zen Buddhist priest in the Katagiri Linage. She began her Buddhist practice over 35 years ago and was ordained in 2011. She has studied at a variety of monasteries in the United States and finds especially meaningful her work with interfaith and community outreach programs. She has served in ecumenical organizations in Omaha, Nebraska, Des Moines, IA, and Grand Rapids, MI. Rev. Shuji holds a BA in Fine Arts and Economics with a minor in Asian Studies and a Masters in Business focused on Organizational and Statistical Methods. Both are From the University of Nebraska. A Master Tailor, Shuji is one of only a few Buddhist Priests able to create Soto Zen Buddhist Priestly Garments. Presently she is sole proprietor of Zen Monk Wear, which provides monastic garments to clergy and lay practitioners internationally.

All are welcome in bring their interest and their questions.

Biographical Statement

for

Shuji Valdene Mintzmyer

As part of the Clergy team of the Grand Rapids Buddhist Temple and Zen Center, Shuji Valdene Mintzmyer is an ordained Soto Zen Buddhist Priest in the Katagiri Linage. She first began her Buddhist practice over 35 years ago and was ordained in 2011. She has trained at Shasta Abbey, Mt. Shasta, CA; Great Vow Zen Monastery, Clatskanie, OR; Ryumonji Monastery, Dorchester, IA; and the Shogaku Priest Ongoing Training program, Freno, CA. Especially meaningful is her part in interfaith and community outreach programs, including those in Omaha, Nebraska; Des Moines, Iowa; and now in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Rev. Shuji holds a BA in Fine Art and Economics, with a minor in Asian Studies; and a Masters in Business, with a focus on Orgaizational Behavior and Statistical methods, both from University of Nebraska. A Mastor Tailor, Shuji is one of only a few Buddhist Priests to create traditional Soto Zen Buddhist Priest garments. Presently she is the sole proprietor of Zen Monk Wear, a business providing monastic priest garments to international clergy and lay practitioners.

1st Annual Hyphenated American Festival



On Saturday, October 08 at 5 p.m., come to the first annual Hyphenated-American Festival. We will celebrate our Dutch, African, German, French, Native American, Polish, Mexican, Russian, English, or Mutt heritage, etc. by bringing a dish of your personal ethnic food to share. Musicians and artists of all cultural backgrounds are encouraged to bring crafts and songs. Join us as we enjoy our great variety of backgrounds as Hyphenated-Americans.

Ann Lapres-Hindes will be attending. She is the person who starting the Newaygo County Compassion Home for the terminally ill. She will be doing a presentation and will be available to answer any questions.

For more information call the office.

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour

On October 16 we will be hosting a Bring A Snack for Coffee Hour. This will help those who would like to do Fellowship/Coffee Hour but don't want to do it alone. If you would like to participate in this endeavor, just bring a snack of your choice for this Snack Time Coffee Fellowship Hour.

--Thank you

Rummage Sale



The Women's Fellowship wishes to thank all of those who donated items for our Rummage Sale, and our Helpers. We had fun meeting many people. Our left overs were donated to Love, Inc. We will use the profits to do a special project in the church.

--Debi Walter, Nancy Myers, Gloria Winters

Fun at the Logging Fest Parade



Thanks to the group that decorated our float for the Labor Day Parade, lead by Deb Burton, Judy Cook, Maison Cook; and thank you to Tim Purcell for providing the wagon and pulling it in the parade.